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Rabin, Peres, Arafat receive Nobel Prize

DAVID MAKOVSKY
OSLO

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat became Nobel Peace Prize laureates last night, each expressing hope that the Israel-PLO accord would bring an end to the suffering of both peoples.

The three were scheduled to meet late last night in a bid to resolve the stalemate over implementing the next phase of the Cairo Agreement. The impasse was a reminder to all that much peacemaking still lies ahead.

Outside Oslo City Hall, where the award ceremony took place, about 150 Israelis and American Jewish protesters, including relatives of terror victims, decried the awarding of the prize to Arafat and the fact that Rabin and Peres did not boycott the ceremony.

In conferring the prize upon the three, Francis Sejersted, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the award was also intended for those who are in the pursuit of peace.

"Peace has to be perpetually won. That means that every award must contain an element of entering into a process, a process with a promise of peace," he said.

"The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded both in recognition of efforts which have been made, and to encourage still further efforts," he added. "There can be no doubt that this is also how Alfred Nobel intended the prize to work."

Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, died in 1896. In his will he left money for prizes to be awarded in several categories to those who have "conferred the greatest benefit on mankind," including those who are "champions of peace."

Both the awards and the subsequent speeches - which were interspersed with musical interludes - were given in alphabetical order to a crowd of some 1,000 invited guests, including members of Norway's monarchy and leaders of its government and parliament.

Arafat's remarks, delivered in Arabic, were partly programmatic



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin display their Nobel Peace Prize medals and diplomas after receiving them yesterday in Oslo.

in nature. In contrast, both Rabin and Peres were more personal, focusing on the legacies they hope to leave behind.

The PLO leader said it was necessary to "accelerate the peace process and implement early with-

drawal," including elections [in order for] peace to become a "deep-rooted reality." He also called for the release of Palestinian prisoners.

In an unusual move, Arafat reached out to the Israeli public in

a way he did not at last year's White House ceremony at which the Oslo accord was signed.

He said peace will allow "Arab consciousness" a "deep understanding [of] the European Jewish tragedy," and expressed hope that

Jews will also understand how Palestinians have suffered.

Saying the suffering of Jews had created a "tortured Jewish soul," he added, "no one is capable of understanding torture more than the tortured."

He declared that peace would create "neighborly relations, mutual respect, and cooperation with the Israeli people who, in return, would be enabled by peace to articulate their Middle Eastern identity by open economy and cultural

exchange with its Arab neighbors."

In an equally rare statement, he declared that he hoped the Arabs of the region would create a "prosperous, democratic multi-party system."

Meanwhile, in his signature style, Peres expounded upon his hopes for a transformed Middle East, which he said he hoped would be "like Scandinavia."

Peres spoke about his youth at Kibbutz Ajlunot. "Today, as in my youth, I carry dreams; that the future of the Jewish people and the future of the Middle East... continue to plow the historical Jewish furrow in the field of the human spirit; that Israel will become the center of our heritage, not merely a homeland for our people; that the Jewish people will be inspired by others but at the same time be to them a source of inspiration."

"The message of the Jewish people to mankind is the message of war and bereavement that has become a standard part of his oratory, the way Menachem Begin would conjure up the Holocaust."

The premier spoke of the immense weight placed leaders like himself, who have to decide whether to embark on a war, with all its human consequences.

Leaders must be guided by the "sanctity of life," Rabin said.

"As a military man, as a commander, as a minister of defense, I ordered to carry out many military operations. And together with the joy of victory and grief of bereavement, I shall always remember the moment just after taking such decisions, the hush as senior officers or cabinet ministers slowly rise from their seats; the sight of their receding backs; the sound of the closing door; and then the silence, in which I remain alone."

Musical interludes were provided last night by Israeli singers Yehoram Gaon, who sang "Days of Grace and Forgiveness," and Ofra Haza who sang "The Paint Box." Palestinian pianist Patrick Lama played "Oriental Piece."

After the event, the three Nobel laureates were hosted at a banquet organized by the Nobel Institute.

Israel, Jordan opening embassies today

ISRAEL and Jordan open their respective embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv today.

The Israeli Embassy will be temporarily located at the Forte Grand Hotel in downtown Amman until an appropriate building can be found by the team currently examining possible sites.

The Jordanian Embassy will be located temporarily at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv.

Until an ambassador is appointed, Ya'acov Rosen, head of the Jordan desk in the Foreign Ministry, will head the six or seven-member embassy diplomatic staff, and about 20 Israelis will work at the embassy.

The ceremony in Amman is due to start at 11 a.m., and will be run by Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General for Peace

Matters Yoav Biran. Foreign Ministry Embassies Department director Uri Halfon will also attend.

At 4 p.m., the parallel ceremony will be held at the temporary Jordanian embassy here. Until the appointed ambassador, Marwan Muasher, arrives, the embassy will be headed by adviser to Crown Prince Hassan, Omar Rifai, who took part in the peace talks and was a strong supporter of maximizing ties between Israel and Jordan.

Meanwhile, serious progress was reported in talks between the two countries regarding the development of joint economic projects, particularly the development of the Jordan Valley as part of the "Peace Valley" program, and a similar one for the Akaba-Eilat region. (Itim)

Prize has ennobling effect on old rivals

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

DAVID MAKOVSKY

Shimon Peres probably could have done without it.

After attending synagogue, and a kiddush hosted by the Oslo Jewish community, Rabin and Peres walked about two kilometers Friday night back to their hotel. About 50 people joined them for the brisk walk in the zero-degree temperature.

Just as they began their walk, the two were booed by some of the 150 Israeli and American Jewish demonstrators who protested the prize being given to Arafat and the fact that Rabin and Peres did not boycott the event.

A handful of protesters walked not far behind the two throughout the walk, yelling "traitor" and "shame." Surprised riders of the tram in Oslo started pointing out the window, waving to Rabin and Peres.

Just before arriving at the Grand Hotel where they and Arafat were staying, Peres slipped on the pavement. Blood

Winning the Nobel Peace Prize seems to have an ennobling effect upon its recipients.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, whose relationship has been marked by a bitter 20-year rivalry, both rose to the occasion.

From the moment they boarded the Air Force plane to Oslo, the two went out of their way to compliment each other in public.

The spirit of goodwill continued to be evident at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony last night.

Rabin on Peres: "I wish to thank the members of the Israeli government and above all my colleague, Mr. Shimon Peres, whose energy and devotion to the cause of peace are an example to us all."

Peres on Rabin: "I am pleased to be receiving this prize together with Yitzhak Rabin, with whom I have labored for long years for the defense of our country, and with whom I now labor together in the cause of peace in our region."

Defending the Decision:
The chairman of the Norwe-

Eyes on the Prize:
Every politician loves to get his picture on the front page of newspapers, but this weekend,

Tax reform will mean more take-home pay

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE average wage-earner's monthly net income will rise by NIS 59 next month, with the implementation of the income and National Insurance Institute employee tax reforms and the health tax, the Treasury reported yesterday.

Based on an analysis of the scheduled tax changes on government workers' wages, the Treasury projects that the disposable income of about 90 percent of wage earners will grow.

A person earning NIS 6,000 a month will get the largest net increase of NIS 133, while someone with a salary of NIS 15,000 will be NIS 421 poorer.

On January 1, the second stage of the income tax reform will take effect, cutting NIS 800 million in taxes by broadening the tax brackets through the elimination of the 35% bracket.

The lowest bracket will be 15% for people making up to NIS 2,804 a month, while the highest bracket will be 50% for all income over

NIS 11,793. Individuals making up to NIS 6,017 will be in the 30% bracket, in contrast to NIS 4,150 before the reform. People earning up to NIS 11,792 a month will be in the 45% bracket compared with the previous ceiling of NIS 8,980.

The reform is aimed at lowering the tax burden on middle-income individuals.

The NII employee tax reform will lower the tax on the first NIS 2,000 in income to 2.8%, while expanding the tax coverage to income supplements such as car allowances, overtime and the like. Income above NIS 2,000 will be taxed at 5.35% as before, except that the ceiling for NII payments will be increased from three times the mean wage to four times, or approximately NIS 16,000.

Government, Druse reach agreement

DRUSE and Circassian local council heads late last night reached an agreement with Police Minister Moshe Shaleh over an increase in their funding.

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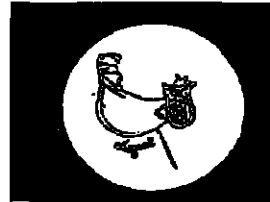
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Earlier Story, Page 12

Syria-Israel talks to resume - Christopher

MIAMI - US Secretary of State Warren Christopher confirmed yesterday that Israel and Syria would resume direct peace talks in Washington, but gave no date for when this would occur.

Christopher made the remarks while posing for photographers with Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurría.

He had previously indicated that the resumption of direct talks between the parties, which broke off some 10 months ago, would mark a significant new development in the peace process.

But yesterday he said nothing dramatically new has happened.

"The parties are extremely serious about this. Nothing that has happened in the Middle East has caused them to lose seriousness. Indeed it has deepened their commitment to the process," he said.

In Oslo, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin cautiously welcomed Syria's agreement to direct talks in

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Washington.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, speaking on Friday in Lebanon, reiterated that Syria would not hold secret talks with Israel. He said of the proposed Washington discussions:

"These are not negotiations but an exchange of ideas and they are not secret."

"The statement of Foreign Minister Shara is in essence readiness to start an exchange of views, not formal negotiations. I believe it's better than nothing," Rabin told reporters in the Norwegian capital.

"No doubt if they [the Syrians] are ready to negotiate one of the most important issues, that is to say security arrangements between experts, I'll look at it in a positive way," Rabin said.

"I don't know the details. I am

sure that the Americans will inform us it's [a] good move. [But] it's not all what we want."

Meanwhile, the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) said it would try to frustrate the campaign by representatives of the Israeli Right against a peace agreement with Syria, after learning that American terror experts known as Likud supporters were invited to testify before a congressional committee that will hold hearings on the stationing of US troops in the Golan Heights.

Anticipating a battle surrounding this issue in Congress, AIPAC announced new efforts to educate members of both houses of Congress on Rabin's policies, and plans to sponsor tours to Israel for congressmen and senators.

Sources said that multimillionaire Edgar Bronfman had made a special contribution to AIPAC of \$130,000 to help fund the new lobbying effort.

Kristiansen: Peace prize to Arafat 'an insult to former laureates'

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THE most popular man in Jerusalem last night seemed to be Kaare Kristiansen, the former member of the Nobel Prize Committee who resigned after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was named as a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Yona Baumei, father of missing Israeli soldier Zacharia Baumei, described Kristiansen as "the true Nobel laureate" at a gathering organized by the Center for Jewish Leadership and the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers.

Baumei lauded Kristiansen, the event's guest of honor, as "a man of the highest principle who will

not let himself be used for any that he does not espouse."

Recalling that it was just a year ago that Arafat had presented Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with half of his son's dog tag, Baumei said Arafat had promised to give more information within two weeks. "To this date, we have no more facts," he said.

Kristiansen, a former minister of energy and a member of the Norwegian parliament for 15 years, received several standing ovations from over 1,500 people who converged on the Jerusalem

Renaissance Hotel long before the conclusion of the Oslo ceremony.

Demonstrations against the Nobel Prize ceremony were held by hundreds of people throughout the country last night.

"I am so happy I am here tonight and not in Oslo," Kristiansen said, adding that his resignation was not a demonstration against the peace process but against rewarding a terrorist.

Referring to the erosion of Arafat's authority, he said that since the signing of the DOP, "there is no doubt that violence has in-

creased rather than diminished."

To award the prize to a terrorist with so much blood on his hands, he said, "is an insult to former laureates of the peace prize."

Earlier in the evening, former Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky presented Kristiansen with a silver dog tag bearing the names of the Israeli MIAs, which the Norwegian guest put around his neck.

Emphasizing the importance of grass-roots support, Sharansky said: "I was a prisoner for many years and I would not have survived if the whole world was not fighting for my freedom and that of other dissidents."

SLA soldier killed by Hizbullah

MARJAYOUN (AP) - Hizbullah gunmen attacked a post manned by the South Lebanese Army yesterday, killing one SLA soldier and slightly wounding another, security sources said.

The sources said Hizbullah fired several rounds of mortar shells and Katyushas at the SLA position in Marjayaoun, in the central sector of the security zone, two kilometers from the northern border.

On Thursday a bomb blast in the same area killed seven SLA soldiers. The seven were buried on Friday in Itayoun, at a funeral marked by cries for revenge against Hizbullah.

Morale in the SLA is reported to be very low, and IDF officers are working to encourage the Lebanese.

"The IDF and SLA will respond with force at a time and place to be determined," a senior IDF source said yesterday. He called the attack an attempt to ruin the atmosphere generated by the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Also Friday, Assistant US Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, Robert Pelletreau, promised Lebanese leaders at the end of a quick visit to Beirut that Washington would work closely with them to achieve peace between Lebanon and Israel.

Pelletreau handed President Elias Hrawi a letter from Christopher, who ended a tour of the region on Thursday intended to push forward stalled Syrian-Israeli talks. As on previous tours, Christopher did not visit Lebanon.

Syrian minister warns Arabs against economic ties with Israel

CAIRO (AP) - Arab oil-producing states yesterday appeared at odds over doing business with Israel before it makes a conclusive withdrawal from the territories.

Syrian Oil Minister Nader Nabulsi, who chaired a meeting of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, warned against the creation of a Middle East common market as advocated by some Israeli leaders.

"We believe the so-called Middle East Market is against Arab interests, and that its main aim is to allow Israel to control the region, especially the oil sector," Nabulsi, who chaired the 10-nation meeting, told reporters.

However, Qatar's Oil Minister, Abdallah Bin Hamad, whose country has announced plans to export natural gas to Israel, said: "Economic projects should not be evaluated from a political point of view."

Other participants said Nabul-

si's appeal, which was repeated in his opening speech, reflected only Syria's position.

Syria refused to attend last month's regional economic summit in Casablanca, which brought Israel together with Arab states on an unprecedented scale.

The Arab oil ministers also approved a \$4.86 million budget for the organization in 1995 and agreed to revive an arbitration panel aimed at solving disputes between its members.

Egypt said it will sell its gas to Israel as long as such a project is economically viable.

It is also studying projects for exports to the territories and Jordan.

Qatar has ambitious plans to export gas from one of the biggest gas fields in the world.

Hamad told reporters after the meeting that it did not take political considerations into account in its economic planning.

Anti-Arafat gunman hurt in clash with PLO backers

SIDON (AP) - Supporters of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat clashed briefly with Palestinian dissidents in a refugee camp in south Lebanon yesterday. Security sources said one anti-Arafat gunman was seriously wounded.

It was not clear what sparked the 15-minute exchange of fire in Ein el-Hilweh, the largest Palestinian refugee camp, the sources said.

The camp, on the southeastern outskirts of this port city 40 kilometers south of Beirut, remained tense after the brief clash, they said.

Ten people were killed and 25 wounded last month in a bloody battle between Arafat loyalists and dissidents led by Lt.-Col. Munir Makdahi.



Demonstrators carrying Israeli flags shout their disapproval of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat from behind police barriers outside the Grand Hotel in Oslo last night. Arafat, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were staying at the hotel. (AP)

Peres, Rabin keep Oslo police on their toes during Shabbat walk

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

POLICE on foot, on horseback and in the air escorted Nobel laureates Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on an unprecedented walk to Oslo's Royal Palace yesterday.

Rabin and Peres were received in audience by Norway's King Harald and Queen Sonja before sharing the Peace Prize with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in City Hall in the evening.

But because of Shabbat, the two leaders could not travel by car. They had to walk for 10 minutes from the Grand Hotel down Karl Johan Boulevard to the palace, and then back again after the 20-minute audience.

Two police helicopters clattered overhead as mounted police, police on foot with dogs, police on motorcycles and in patrol cars -

blue lights flashing - followed Rabin and Peres every step of the way to minimize exposure.

Anti-vehicle road blocks and cordons kept bystanders at a distance, but Jewish extremists were within shouting distance, chanting "shame, shame" in English and in Hebrew.

Shabbat caused the postponement of the traditional awards ceremony from early afternoon to 5 p.m. - after sunset - in order for the two to be able to ride there by car.

Three members of Kahane Chai were detained for burning an effigy of Rabin outside City Hall during the awards ceremony.

"As we see it, Rabin is a traitor,

Arafat is a murderer and Norway has become a state sponsor of terrorism which will only lead to the death of Jews," Kahane Chai spokesman Mike Guzofsky told Reuters.

After the awards ceremony, the laureates rode in a motorcade back to the Grand Hotel beyond the view of Israeli demonstrators clutching pictures of relatives they said had been killed by fundamentalists. Unprecedented security measures were enforced by 800 police officers as the leaders arrived on Friday.

Five Jewish activists were detained yesterday after demonstrating outside the Nobel Institute and inside the Oslo synagogue, but were later released. US rabbi Avi Weiss and three other activists received a fine of \$400 each.

Likud: Rabin accepted prize only in name of Labor, Left

THE Likud Party said yesterday that Rabin had accepted the Nobel Peace Prize only in the name of the Labor Party and the Left.

"Rabin did not accept the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the people of Israel and its future generations, but only in the name of the Labor Party and the Left - which represents a minority of the people," the party said in a statement.

"Rabin and Peres are humiliating the people and the country by accepting the prize together with a murderer of their people. How dare Rabin speak in the name of the Holocaust victims as he accepts the prize together with one who continues the Nazi way," the statement said.

A state-run Syrian newspaper said the prize should not have been awarded to Arafat, Rabin and Peres, and called them "enemies of the supervisors."

"The supervisors of the Nobel Prize have missed the target this time, because the Oslo peace accord did not achieve peace, nor was it a step toward peace," the daily *Tishrin* said.

It described the current situa-

tion as a "peace of occupation, killing and suppression."

Meretz Knesset faction head MK Ran Cohen congratulated the three for clarifying that they planned to continue to vigorously pursue full peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Cohen expressed his satisfaction with Arafat's conciliatory remarks aimed at the Jewish people. "Until now, Arafat talked about formal peace, but at the ceremony, he talked about fully reconciling with the Jewish people, our past, and our historic rights, even in Jerusalem."

"For a Palestinian to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for making peace with the infidel Zionist occupiers is tantamount to his spitting in the holy Koran," Gaza Islamic Jihad leader Sheikh Abdullah Shami said last night in Gaza.

Speaking to dozens of young Islamic Jihad supporters marking the seventh anniversary of the intifada, he said: "Peace with the Zionist infidels goes against Islam and the holy Koran. There will be

no peace in Palestine until the sword of God sends the Zionists to the winds, and the flag of Islam flies over Palestine and over every mosque and house, until the ground is purified from Zionism."

Speaking about the prize, Shami called it "a prize for peace for the Chief of Staff [meaning Rabin] who murders our children, oppresses our women, the man who brought about our deportation. Peace will come when the end of the infidel Zionist state comes,

and when Zionists are wiped off the face of the earth."

Shami added he would not cooperate with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"I don't know why the Norwegians are in such a hurry to give peace prizes at this point when the peace process is very much in doubt," said Haidar Abdel Shafi, the former head Palestinian negotiator, who opposed Arafat's deal with Israel. JP Staff and agencies

Our beloved Dr. LOTTE SALZBERGER

has passed away
The funeral will leave the Sanhedria Funeral Home to Mount of Olives Cemetery on Sunday, 11 December 1994, at 3:00 p.m.

Her daughter: Gaby
Son and daughter-in-law: Eli and Fania
Sisters: Renée Herman
Margit Wreschner-Rustow
and Dan Rustow
Sister and brother-in-law: Neomi and Baruch Sarel
And the family

HaMoked: Center for the Defense of the Individual

Mourns the passing of the founder and Chairperson of the board

Dr. LOTTE SALZBERGER

The management and staff of HaMoked

בן דני ממת In deepest sorrow we mourn the loss of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather Rabbi Dr. BENJAMIN MORGENSTERN

ת"צ בן דני ממת
The funeral will take place today, Sunday, December 11, 1994 (8 Tevet, 5755) at 11:00 a.m., at Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Shimon junction (near Beit Shמש).

Shiva at 4 Shimon St., Jerusalem

Wife: Sylvia Morgenstern
Children: Dr. Jack and Debbie Morgenstern and family
Marilyn and Jules Finkel and family
Sisters: Molly Belenken
Evelyn Schreiber, New York

Transportation to the cemetery will be leaving from 4 Shimon St., Jerusalem at 10:00 a.m.

Shohat wants FEZP zone in Likit

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat will ask the cabinet today to approve locating the new Free Export Processing Zone (FEZP) in Likit, three kilometers northwest of Omer, near Beersheba.

The FEZP will be run as a concession, which will be granted to investors by means of a competitive tender. Companies locating in the zone will pay reduced taxes.

The red tape will be eliminated by setting up an office to handle all government-related requirements. Shohat has asked the FEZP board to speed up the preparation of the tender for running the zone.

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Series A-B

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Wednesday 14.12.94, 8:30 p.m. Henry Crown Symphony Hall
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103 countries
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Summit pledges Western Hemisphere free-trade zone

MIAMI (AP) — Heads of 34 Western Hemisphere countries pledged yesterday to forge a vast free-trade zone for the Americas in the next decade, opening markets for 850 million people from Alaska to Argentina and Chile.

This historic step will produce real opportunities for more jobs and solid, lasting prosperity for our peoples. US President Clinton said as he announced the results of morning talks with leaders of all hemisphere countries except Fidel Castro's Cuba.

The presidents and prime ministers stood in two rows behind Clinton in the morning sun and raised joined hands as he ended his remarks.

The pact calls for the Free Trade Area of the Americas to be negotiated by 2005, with "real progress" before the end of the century. Clinton said. The early progress target was a bow to Argentina and some countries that had pushed for a deadline of 2000.

The leaders set a timetable beginning next month for trade ministers and other officials to start work on the free trade agreement, building on existing accords within the Americas, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement among Canada, Mexico and the United States.

The leaders promised help for smaller countries that would have difficulty meeting the deadline, Clinton said.

The grand design of a hemisphere without trade barriers came nearly a year after NAFTA took effect and almost 30 years since the last summit of North and South American leaders.

"In less than a decade if current trends continue, this hemisphere will be the world's largest market... more than \$13 trillion worth of

goods and services," Clinton said. United as seldom before for democracy and freer trade, the hemisphere leaders heard a call for frequent summits, in the pattern of the Pacific rim, Europe and other regional groupings.

Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, one of yesterday's first speakers, urged that Americas summits convene every two years to pursue the promises of this week-end and free the weaker economies from what he called "economic purgatory."

Clinton convened the Summit of the Americas on Friday night, telling fellow government chiefs they had a chance to make history. "A partnership for prosperity, stronger democracies, improving our people's quality of life. These are the opportunities that lie before us," he said.

The 34 gathered yesterday in the ornate Villa Vizcaya, an example of Mediterranean Revival architecture that was the site of President Reagan's 1987 meeting with Pope John Paul II. Delegations faced each other across a large square table with a colorful map of the hemisphere in its center.

Clinton didn't invite Castro because only democratically elected leaders were wanted, and US officials hoped the meeting would not be sidetracked by discussions of Cuba.

In convening the summit, Clinton sought to convey the message that free trade would benefit North Americans, just as the NAFTA accord that took effect in January and the GATT world trade pact he signed last week.

"If we're successful, the summit will lead to more jobs, opportunity and prosperity for our children and for generations to come," he said Friday.

EU agrees to add 10 East European states

ROBERT J. WIELAARD
ESSEN

IN their boldest expansion bid to date, leaders of the 12 EU nations agreed yesterday to widen the European Union's ranks by taking in as many as 10 East European neighbors in the years ahead.

They ended a two-day summit endorsing a strategy to prepare six eastern countries for EU membership at an unspecified date.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the summit's host, called this "a clear political signal."

"It is important that we do not now create false hopes" in East European capitals, he said.

Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria already have broad economic and political accords with the EU.

Their leaders attended the final session of the summit, lunching with their EU colleagues and those of Austria, Finland and Sweden — three nations that will join the EU next month.

The West Europeans said they also hope to soon bring the three Baltic republics and Slovenia into their "pre-accession" strategy.

The immediate reaction from East European delegates to the EU's eastward expansion plans was positive.

Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus spoke of a "a move forward" that will accelerate his country's desire to join the EU.

Poland and Hungary are widely seen to be ready for EU membership by the year 2000 and have already applied for membership.

"We are glad that we are approaching the moment when the final residuals of the Cold War division of Europe will be overcome and when Europe will be united again," Klaus said.

The East European strategy seeks to bring the eastern economies up to speed to join the EU some day. In doing so, the West



French President Francois Mitterrand gestures to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, as heads of European Union states gather for a group photo after the first session of their summit on Friday. (AP)

Europeans also seek to help preserve pan-European stability.

The East Europeans are asked to continue apace with market reforms and gradually adopt EU single market laws. There will be annual meetings of EU and Eastern European government leaders

and more frequent ministerial meetings.

For its part, the EU will continue to open markets to the East and consult their neighbors before imposing punitive trade measures. No country can join until after the EU nations have agreed on an

overhaul of their institutions and decision-making rules as the EU grows in membership.

They are scheduled to debate this in 1996. But Polish Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak held out hope "that we can get into get into detailed [membership] talks before 1996."

The EU will judge each East European nation individually to see if it qualifies for EU membership.

The summit provided no extra funding to help prepare the East for membership. (AP)

Serbs free dozens of UN hostages

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — Bosnian Serb forces freed scores of United Nations hostages yesterday and allowed a food convoy to reach Sarajevo.

But the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) warned that some of its duties, such as anti-sniper patrols in the capital and armored escorts for aid convoys, would grind to a halt unless the Serbs lifted a blockade on fuel supplies.

Spokesman Jan Dirk Merveldt told reporters: "Nothing short of a total freedom of movement for UNPROFOR will be acceptable... the quicker we can get aid to those in desperate trouble, the better for the whole community."

European Union governments, having rejected calls for a UN withdrawal from Bosnia, ended a summit in Germany by voicing strong support for the UN aid program which the Serbs have obstructed systematically for months.

In a communique condemning the Serb onslaught on Bihac which provoked the present crisis, the EU said UNPROFOR "should

continue its crucial mission of providing humanitarian assistance and saving human life."

Diplomatic and military tensions were eased by signals from the Bosnian Serbs that they are ready to talk again about a major powers' peace plan which they rejected in August.

The plan would divide Bosnia roughly in two between the Serbs and a confederation of Muslims and Croats.

No date was set for talks but the Serbs asked for early consultations with US envoy Charles Redman, who will have to secure the agreement of the Muslim-led Bosnian government to any change in the plan, which it has already accepted.

Envoys of the five-nation "contact group" have shuttled between the warring sides to promote renewed talks since the Bihac fighting brought Serb-UN relations to their lowest ebb of the 32-month war.

The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) seized about 500 UN peacekeepers as hostages against NATO air strikes, activated missile bases

which threatened NATO warplanes and tightened the noose on aid deliveries.

Merveldt said the last 187 hostages were released yesterday but other UN sources said four were still detained in Banja Luka in northern Bosnia.

The food convoy to Sarajevo brought 180 tons of grain which assured immediate bread supplies but the real test of Serb good intentions lay in the lifting of the fuel blockade, described by Merveldt as "particularly worrisome."

Ukrainian UN peacekeepers in Sarajevo had no petrol for their armored vehicles and French troops were unable to carry out anti-sniper patrols.

Peacekeepers in the eastern Muslim enclaves of Gorazde and Srebrenica could not use their vehicles and patrolled on foot despite the constant threat from marksmen.

UN spokeswoman Miriam Suchaki said UNPROFOR would stop escorting aid convoys tomorrow and be unable to send repair crews to Sarajevo utilities without new supplies of fuel.

Lithuania pledges to prosecute Nazis; US moves to strip two of citizenship

TALLINN, Estonia — A day after US officials moved to strip an Ohio man and native of Lithuania of his citizenship on grounds he lied about his Nazi past, Lithuania repeated its pledge to prosecute Nazis deported from the US.

"It will be a long process, but if he is extradited, he certainly could be charged," Vidmantas Vaicakauskas, a Lithuanian prosecutor in charge of investigating war crimes, said in a telephone interview Thursday.

So far, however, Lithuania's General Prosecutor's Office said it had not received information from the United States about the alleged Nazi, 73-year-old Algimantas Dailide, of Brecksville, Ohio. American justice officials allege that as a young man Dailide worked in a special Nazi unit which captured Jews hiding out-

side Nazi-established ghettos and handed them over for execution.

It is the second case since September of a Lithuanian-American being accused of war crimes. A Massachusetts man, 87-year-old Aleksandras Lileikis, is also accused of sending Jews to their deaths during the German occupation.

Lithuanian officials have opened an investigation and vowed to put him on trial if he is deported.

On Friday, the Justice Department announced that it filed a lawsuit seeking to revoke the citizenship of an accused Nazi concentration camp guard.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Chicago, alleges that Chester Rydlinski, 70, of Bloomington, Illinois, served at Auschwitz and at Buchenwald and its Laura subcamp in Germany.

It charged that Rydlinski, as a member of the Nazi Death's Head Battalion at Laura, guarded camp inmates to prevent their escape as they were evacuated in cattle cars and by forced march to the Dachau death camp in 1945.

The lawsuit charged that the service of the Lithuanian-born Rydlinski as an armed guard and dog handler at the camps constituted assistance to the Nazi program to persecute Jews.

In London, the Home Office Minister said nine residents of Britain are being considered for prosecution for Nazi war crimes.

Out of an original 369 suspects, 23 are currently still under investigation, Emily Blatch told the House of Lords. Nine of those were at the stage of being considered for prosecution. (AP, Reuters)

Chechnya braces for Russian invasion

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russia massed troops on the border of the breakaway republic of Chechnya yesterday and Chechen military commanders declared themselves ready for war.

Civilians continued to flee the capital, Grozny, holding few hopes for scheduled talks between Russian and Chechen officials.

A day after President Boris Yeltsin authorized the use of force against Chechnya, Russian jet fighters flew sorties over Grozny during mid-day Islamic prayers. Shots were fired at the planes to defiant cries of "God is great!"

"Islamic battalions are forming in each village," Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said in a telephone interview with the newspaper Izvestia. "Islamic militants from around the world — instructors and fighters — have joined them." Yeltsin ordered his government on Friday to employ "all means at the state's disposal" to restore or-

der and disarm "illegal armed groups." Russian officials would not say how many troops were gathered at the border, but the regional border guard chief told the newspaper Pravda that his forces were increased by 50%.

Dudayev, a former Soviet air force general, declared Chechnya independent in 1991, but Moscow does not recognize the claim and has backed rebels against him.

News agencies said Russia was closing off Chechen air space and tightening its blockade on the border, but cars entered and left freely.

Water was shut off yesterday in Grozny, food supplies ran low, and rumors flew of an imminent Russian invasion. Residents said news that Yeltsin was having nose surgery meant Russia would invade and Yeltsin would plead ignorance of the attack.

BEIT SHEMESH
WELCOME HOME FUND SCHOLARSHIPS
 The Jerusalem Post Welcome Home Fund will present ten scholarships on Monday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. to residents of Beit Shemesh in the presence of the Mayor.
 Readers of The Post who would like to attend the presentation should phone Susie at 02-915567 for details.

Nobel laureates receive prizes from Swedish king

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) — Kenzaburo Oe, an enfant terrible and outsider in his native Japan, received the prestigious 1994 Nobel Literature Prize yesterday from Swedish King Carl Gustaf.

The king presented a diploma, gold medal and check to each of this year's nine Nobel laureates in Literature, Chemistry, Physics, Medicine and Economics in a ceremony of pomp and music at the Stockholm Concert Hall.

The Nobel Prizes, among the most prestigious distinctions in the world, have been awarded since 1901 on December 10 — the anniversary of the 1896 death of Alfred Nobel, Swedish dynamite inventor and philanthropist.

Some 1,800 people gathered at the Stockholm Concert Hall for a festival of light in the darkness of a Swedish winter — flaming torches covered the cobbled square in front of the

hall and lights illuminated its facade.

"Oe himself has described his writing as a way of exorcising... demons. Hopefully, he will never succeed," said Kjell Espmark of the Swedish Academy of the Japanese author.

"There is in his 'grotesque realism' a powerful poetry which communicates across the boundaries of languages and cultures, a poetry full of fresh observations and concise images," he said.

King Carl Gustaf and German-born Queen Silvia sat opposite the winners while gold, silver and bronze medals dazzled from the audience.

The hall was decorated with spruce and pine branches and strands of flowers of carnations and lilies in different shades of yellow, orange and red.

Each prize, some of them shared, is worth seven million crowns (\$930,000) and this

year, as in other years, North Americans dominated the Nobel prizes.

Canadian Bertram Brockhouse and American Clifford Shull won the physics prize for pioneering development in neutron scattering techniques in the 1940s and 1950s.

Hungarian-born American George Olah was awarded the chemistry prize for a discovery that sped the development of oil refining, lead-free petrol, polymers and drugs.

The Nobel Prize for medicine went to Americans Alfred Gilman and Martin Rodbell for their discovery of the G-protein, the mechanism that, like a switchboard, receives messages in a human cell and connects it to the correct destination.

Two Americans — John Harsanyi and John Nash — and German Reinhard Selten shared the economics prize for their work on game theory.

Britain, Sinn Fein talk for first time in 70 years

BELFAST (Reuters) — The search for peace in Northern Ireland has entered a new phase with the first formal meeting in more than 70 years between the British government and militant Irish nationalists.

Both sides described the exchanges at Friday's talks between British officials and Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), as constructive and businesslike and they agreed to meet again on December 19.

Cease-fires by rival Roman Catholic and Protestant guerrillas have created an air of optimism in the province and the other countries have shown their willingness to work with the British and Irish governments in cementing peace.

The European Union agreed on Friday to pour an extra \$360 million into Northern Ireland.

A conference aimed at attracting international investment to the province is scheduled for Belfast next Tuesday, although Sinn

Fein has said it is unhappy about being granted only "partial participation" in it.

The three-hour discussion on Friday took place exactly 100 days after IRA guerrillas declared an end to their bloody campaign against British rule.

Protestant guerrillas, battling to preserve links with Britain, announced a truce in mid-October.

More than 3,000 people have been killed in 25 years of guerrilla warfare and sectarian conflict in the region where the majority Protestant community wants to preserve its ties with Britain while Catholics look to Dublin as their natural rulers.

During Friday's talks near Belfast, the British reiterated their demand that the IRA surrender its arsenals of weapons and explosives stored in secret bunkers along the Irish border.

They said that was the key to Sinn Fein's participation in future all-party dialogue.

Sinn Fein demanded all-party talks, involving the British and Irish

governments, to achieve a "lasting settlement" to end British rule.

British minister Michael Ancram, who did not attend the talks, said afterwards Britain had always maintained the arms issue must be resolved before the two sides could move forward.

"Their continued retention will constitute... a barrier to other political parties, as well as to the government itself, joining with Sinn Fein in substantive political negotiations," said Ancram, Northern Ireland political development minister.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, who was also not at Friday's meeting, said the arms issue did not dominate the talks and warned Britain not to use it to block further progress.

Sinn Fein joined the talks with the intention of removing weapons from Irish politics, he said. All weapons should be decommissioned, including the British army's, Adams said.

Hardline Protestant unionists, so-called because of their support for Northern Ireland remaining part of Britain, expressed anger that the meeting had taken place.

Loyalist legislator Peter Robinson said it was "a day of shame for the British."

A fringe loyalist political group, the Ulster Democratic Party, said it was reconsidering whether to take part in talks with British officials scheduled for December 15 in protest against the inclusion of a local councillor from the Irish Republic in the Sinn Fein delegation.

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US surgeon general quits over masturbation remark

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton fired US Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders on Friday after learning she had told an audience that schools should consider teaching children about masturbation.

"The president feels that's wrong, feels that's not what schools are for, and it's not what the surgeon general should say," White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said in explaining Clinton's decision to demand Elders' resignation.

Elders, whose nearly two years as the Clinton administration's top public health official was marred by a number of controversial remarks, made the comment on December 1 in answering a question after giving a speech in New York during World AIDS Day observances.

According to a White House transcript of the exchange, a member of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues told Elders that he masturbated and asked her what were the prospects of "a more explicit discussion and promotion of masturbation" as a means of avoiding AIDS.

She replied she was a strong advocate of a comprehensive health education program starting at a very early age, and that it should be in the schools because "many of our parents have difficulty teaching certain things."

"As per your specific question in regard to masturbation, I think that is something that is a part of human sexuality and it's a part of something that perhaps should be taught," she said.

The White House learned of the remark on Thursday night when asked for comment by a US magazine. Officials then sought to confirm she had said it.

They had done so by Friday morning and Panetta said Clinton,

once notified, told him that. "She must resign."

Panetta talked to her, as did Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, then Clinton himself spoke to Elders briefly after delivering a speech in Miami to a summit of Western Hemisphere leaders.

"If she had not resigned she would have been terminated," Panetta said, describing her masturbation comment as "just one too many" in a long line of comments that ran against Clinton's beliefs.

Said Clinton in a written statement: "Dr. Elders' public statements reflecting differences with administration policy and my own convictions have made it necessary for her to tender her resignation."

Elders, one of the highest-ranking black women in the Clinton government, had been Clinton's director of the Arkansas Department of Health while he was Arkansas governor.

In her tenure in Washington, she drew fire for suggesting Catholics opposed to abortion have a "love affair" with fetuses, suggested the government consider legalizing drugs, and suggested five-year-olds be taught about AIDS.

She was a lightning rod for criticism from Republicans and Christian leaders with her strong stands on abortion rights, sex education and condom distribution in schools.

She endorsed homosexual adoptions, prompting Catholic Cardinal James Hickey of Washington to write to Clinton urging him to disavow her comments.

Elders was loose-tongued to the very end, telling US News & World Report in an interview for the upcoming edition that, "If I felt that it would make young people use condoms, I would put a crown of condoms on my head and I would never take it off."



US President Bill Clinton and former surgeon general Dr. Jocelyn Elders walk together in a July 18, 1993 file photo. (AP)

Elders's firing latest in Clinton appointee setbacks

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton's firing on Friday of Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders was the latest in a series of his senior level appointments that have gone awry.

Others appointees or senior officials who have resigned or been forced to withdraw include:

• Zoe Baird, Clinton's first choice for the post of Attorney General, had to withdraw her name halfway through her Senate confirmation hearings in January 1992 after she admitted breaking the law by hiring two illegal aliens and failing to pay Social Security taxes for them.

• Kimba Wood, the New York federal judge who was his second choice for the Attorney General spot, was pressured by the White House into withdrawing from consideration because she had hired an illegal alien to care for her child several years ago.

• Lani Guinier, nominated to head the Justice Department's civil rights division, was dropped by Clinton just before her Senate confirmation hearings after mounting political pressure about her controversial views on minority rights.

• Les Aspin, Defense secretary for the first year of the Clinton administration, announced his resignation in December 1993 after reports that Clinton had lost confidence in his stewardship.

• Bobby Ray Inman, a retired Navy admiral and former deputy CIA director who accepted Clin-

ton's nomination to succeed Aspin only grudgingly, withdrew from consideration in a rambling, hour-long news conference, blaming personal attacks by the press and saying, "Things are pretty ugly in Washington right now."

• Morton Halperin, nominated by Clinton to head a new Defense Department post in charge of peacekeeping policy, was withdrawn from consideration at Halperin's request after harsh criticism about the appointment of a liberal, anti-Vietnam War activist to be assistant secretary of defense.

• Mike Espy, the first black to be Agriculture Secretary and an early star of the administration, announced his resignation this autumn, effective December 31, amid a rash of allegations that he improperly accepted free travel and gifts from poultry giant Tyson Foods, an industry regulated by USDA.

• Webster Hubbell, a close friend of President and Hillary Rodham Clinton, was associate attorney general until his resignation last March. Hubbell pleaded guilty Tuesday to mail fraud and tax evasion.

• Jocelyn Elders, forced to resign as surgeon general Friday, was the first black to hold that post, but her outspoken views on sexuality earned her the undying enmity of many Christians and conservatives.

300 killed in China fire

BEIJING (Reuters) — Thousands mourned in China's northwest, still in falling snow, to mourn a generation as they buried more of the 300 children burned to death in China's worst fire in 15 years.

"The whole city is immersed in grief," a local official, who refused to be identified, said by telephone. "For this town this is a disaster that has drowned all hope."

Karamay will not recover from this sorrow for years — how can we even think of passing the Chinese New Year festival?

China's deadliest fire in 15 years raged through the Friendship Hall cinema in Karamay, near the border with the former Soviet Union, on Thursday evening when it was packed with more than 900 people, including at least 500 school children performing in and watching a cultural show.

Officials said 311 people, mostly children, were killed and 225 injured, but added they were unable to give an exact death toll because many parents took the bodies of their children home immediately to mourn.

The youngest to die were eight years old.

More than 10,000 of Karamay's 220,000 residents turned out in silence on Friday for funerals of about 80 children from families of the local Moslem Uighur minority whose custom is not to allow the dead to spend a night unburied, the official said.

The fire — the second to break out in the cinema since it was refurbished two years ago — began with sparks from an apparent electrical fault that set alight curtains, he said.

When frightened children tried to leave their seats to escape the smoke, they were ordered to remain sitting and maintain discipline, the official said.

Most victims were pupils from two primary schools and a secondary school sitting in the front rows who were engulfed in flames when a ball of fire erupted from the smoking curtains and exploded into the auditorium, witnesses said. Then the ceiling crashed down, newspapers said.

All but one of the doors were padlocked and iron bars blocked the windows. Most of the bodies were found piled near the exits, a witness said.

A teacher plunged three times into the blazing hall to bring out children. He did not come out of his fourth trip.

Controversial new US envoy arrives in Romania

BUCHAREST (Reuters) — Alfred Moses, a controversial appointment as US ambassador to Romania, arrived in Bucharest yesterday to take up his post, diplomats said.

Moses, president of the American Jewish Committee, told reporters at Otopeni Airport that attacks on him by Romanian nationalist politicians and others over his ties to the old communist regime had no relevance.

"That's a matter in the past. I am looking to the future not to the past," he said on arriving a day late after heavy fog prevented his aircraft landing on Friday.

President Bill Clinton stirred protests from nationalists and anti-communists in Romania when he appointed Moses in August to re-

place career diplomat John R. Davis.

Moses played an active role in negotiations with late communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu on the emigration of Romanian Jews to Israel — a link to the former regime some politicians find unacceptable.

Some analysts suspect the resistance to Moses had more to do with latent antisemitism in Romania than whether or not he was tainted by dealings with Ceausescu.

Romania had more than 1.3 million Jews before World War II but its wartime fascist government sent more than half a million to die in Nazi camps. Fewer than 13,000 Jews, most of them old, still live in the Balkan country.

S. African 'treason trial' lawyer dies

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Israel Aaron Maisels, an attorney who successfully defended Nelson Mandela and other top anti-apartheid activists in the "Treason Trial," has died at the age of 89.

Maisels, known as Izzy, died Thursday morning.

"He was one of the most outstanding lawyers South Africa had ever produced," Mandela said Friday.

Maisels led the legal team that defended 156 people of all races, including Mandela, who went on trial in 1956 for violating the white government's Suppression of Communism Act.

Egyptian sentenced in UN bomb plot case

CAMDEN, New Jersey (Reuters) — Ashraf Mohammed, an Egyptian convicted of conspiracy and harboring a fugitive accused in an alleged plot to bomb the United Nations, was sentenced on Thursday to 41 months in prison.

His wife, Evelyn Cortez, also convicted of conspiracy and of hiding Matarawy Mohammed (Wahid) Saleh, was given a 33-month sentence by US District Court Judge Joseph Rodriguez in Camden, NJ.

Mohammed and Cortez were convicted on March 31 of conspiracy and harboring a federal fugitive.

Saleh and 11 others, including Egyptian cleric Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, are charged with plotting to bomb the UN and two tunnels between New York and New Jersey, and with plotting to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Saleh was found hiding at a New Jersey seashore motel with Mohammed and his wife on July 22, 1993.

The trial against Saleh and the others is set to begin on January 9 in New York City.



Helo Pinciro, the girl who inspired Antonio Carlos Jobim's song, "The Girl from Ipanema," attends the composer's funeral on Friday. Jobim, whose songs sparked the bossa nova craze of the 1960s, died on Thursday in New York of heart failure. (AP)

Crown Heights polarized over council election

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

A VOTE for the leaders of a local Jewish community board in Brooklyn became a "holy war" last month.

Despite the heated religious rhetoric and occasional references to the moshiah, this was — in theory — the most prosaic of elections, for the directors of a secular agency that serves the small neighborhood of Crown Heights, which is also the headquarters of the worldwide Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

Instead, the tally has yet to be certified some three weeks after secret balloting in the Lubavitch community for directors for the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council.

Roughly two-thirds of the nearly 4,000 people eligible actually participated in the voting, according to official estimates.

Rabbi Joseph Spielman, the long-time chairman, was re-elected to the council. However, he was not the top vote-getter on his victorious slate and will lose the title of chairman to Samuel Malamud, a stamp dealer and printer.

The new board of seven directors also includes several businessmen, a dentist and a law professor.

Spielman says his role in the council will not change, despite losing his title. "This is a friendly

change of chairmanships," he said. "We campaigned as a slate, not as rivals."

"Friendly" is a word not usually associated with this election, which was ordered by the New York State Supreme Court. (Despite its grand name, the court is the lowest-ranking in the state court system.)

The court became involved when several members of the Lubavitch community, led by Mimi and Harold Furst, challenged the leadership of the council, an agency with a \$1 million budget that oversees a wide variety of government-financed social welfare programs in the Brooklyn neighborhood.

The Fursts and their allies, who are called "dissidents" by some and "insurgents" by others, contended that the council was in violation of its by-laws for failing to hold elections every two years. The November 20 election was the first in eight years.

The dissidents, whose slate of candidates was overwhelmingly rejected, contended that the campaign and the election were tainted by harassment and intimidation, both subtle and overt.

"I will be shocked if we don't" appeal, said Saul Feder, whose firm, Regosin Edwards Stone & Feder, represented the Fursts in the New York court.

Enter the rabbis. As the campaign was drawing to a close, a member of the Crown Heights rabbinic court endorsed the Spielman slate, a move Feder called "improper." Before the election, the combatants for the council signed an agreement saying, in part, that the director of the community council, the Va'ad Hakahal and all employees, would not use undue influence or coercion in the campaign.

Members of the rabbinic court get a salary from — and are employees of — the va'ad, Feder said. If a religious court rabbi had been "standing on a street corner" while endorsing the Spielman slate, it would not have been welcome, Feder said. However, joining Spielman's slate at a campaign event crossed the line.

"This is not a community where rabbis don't count," Feder said. "Only Jews can vote; only the Or-

thodox can run" as a candidate for the community council board.

"The fact that a rabbi does something is not kosher, you don't eat it," said Mimi Furst, "and this was the same."

Once the rabbis endorsed the slate, many in the community said, there was no free choice. Yet despite what the dissidents called the compulsion, many people avoided the election, which the dissidents viewed as a silent sign of support. And some "400 brave souls" publicly voted for the dissident slate, Feder said.

The election was held at a Crown Heights yeshiva under the watchful eyes of Honest Ballot Association, which monitors union elections. "Teamsters' election are a lot easier than this one," the association's executive director was quoted as telling *New York magazine*, referring to the labor organization with a flamboyant history of violence and intimidation.

Many in the Lubavitch community cringed at the introduction into the election of the late Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. They emphatically note that the campaign was for a secular agency serving the Lubavitch neighborhood of Crown Heights, and did not reflect the interests or the intentions of the international Lubavitch network of activities.

Others objected to what they saw as the manipulation of hasidim for political ends.

"The Crown Heights Jewish Community Council has nothing to do with Torah," said one dissident who declined to be named. "It has to do with the sanitation department, welfare. You need services, you call the council."

"The moshiah? That's another red herring," the dissident said. "Whatever works, they'll use to get votes."

The election generated substantial interest outside the Lubavitch community because it offered a rare public glimpse of the jockeying for position after the death last summer of the Lubavitcher rebbe.

Observers were treated to reports of death threats, firings, fire-slappings and verbal assaults so ferocious that, had this been a sporting event, people would have been ejected for foul play.

Observers also had been intrigued by what was believed to be the first democratic balloting for Jewish communal leadership in the US. That procedure was short-lived.

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BEGIN: A Portrait



Harry Z. Hurwitz

A warm Jew who loved the Jewish people, Menachem Begin was one of the most beloved leaders that Israel has ever known. He was also one of the most effective, leaving to Israel a legacy of peace, strength and faith unmatched by any other modern leader of the nation. Harry Zvi Hurwitz, who was professionally and personally associated with Begin, has culled Begin's addresses, statements, announcements, interviews and his own personal notes to produce a remarkable biography that also captures Begin's political and personal thoughts and observations.

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US health secretary: Eternal optimist with a plan

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

WHY has Israel been able to agree on a national health insurance plan, while the US has failed?

US Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala seemed embarrassed by the question. In an interview during her recent six-day visit, she said: "We have a very intensely private health system, which has lots of people who make money from the way it's organized. There are powerful interests."

The Republican Party has vigorously opposed President Clinton's health reform plan. Now, the party is about to take control of both houses of Congress, which will make the fight even tougher. Shalala, a self-described "eternal optimist," said the administration would now take "smaller steps." These would probably begin with children whose parents lack health coverage and other "helpless groups," but the president has not yet decided which form this will take. But she added that she hopes Hillary Rodham Clinton will continue to take a major role in health reform.

Shalala met staff of the Joint Distribution Committee-Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem who are to evaluate the national health insurance system going into effect January 1. They promised to inform her about their findings.

She noted that one of the main parallels between the Israeli reform and that being contemplated in Washington is the emphasis on managed competition through health maintenance organizations: HMOs in the US are similar to Israel's health funds.

Shalala said HMOs discriminate against sickly, elderly people who want to join; some who want to recruit old people do so at square dances and swimming pools "to ensure that the elderly who join up are healthy." Universal coverage here bars funds from turning down a new member, regardless of age or health; the National Insurance Institute will compensate funds for their "more expensive" members.

Dr. Bruce Rosen, a top health-system researcher at Brookdale, said a delegation of HMO officials from the US asked the Jerusalem Institute to organize a study trip for them next year.

Shalala, a third-generation American of Lebanese origin, expressed interest in the health-education program for Palestinian children in the territories being launched jointly by IDC-Israel and the autonomous areas' Palestinian Health Council, with Health Ministry support. Nearly 250 teachers and nurses will be trained to introduce health education in 100 schools in Gaza, Judea and Samaria.

The 53-year-old Shalala, whose department controls 40 percent of the federal budget, has had an impressive career in education, social affairs and government. If *The New York Times* hadn't turned down her application to work as a reporter after college, she might have ended up a journalist.

She was nine when a tornado ripped through her hometown of Cleveland in 1950. Her mother, Edna, found her twin sister Diana but was unable to locate Donna. Edna searched frantically, until a neighbor recalled seeing Donna directing confused drivers at a nearby intersection.

The HHS secretary's sense of purpose and composure under fire have come in handy during her struggles on behalf of the sick, elderly and downtrodden in US society. But she will need them even more during the second half of the Clinton administration, trying to get her programs through a hostile Republican-controlled Congress.

Less than 1.4 meters tall but packed with enough energy to work 15-hour days, Shalala speaks Arabic, which she learned from her father, James, a real-estate salesman who was a leader of Cleveland's Syrian-Lebanese community. She also knows Farsi, picked up during a two-year Peace Corps stint in Iran when John Kennedy was president.

Both languages came in handy during her visit here. She surprised Iranian im-



Shalala: Clinton administration will take smaller steps in health reform.

migrant youngsters at the Yemin Orde Youth Village by conversing with them in Farsi, and used some of her Arabic

when meeting PLO chief Yasser Arafat and visiting hospitals and officials in Gaza, Jericho, Bethlehem and eastern Jerusalem.

Shalala tried to bridge gaps when, after receiving her BA at Ohio's Western College for Women, she joined the Peace Corps. She taught social science at Iran's University of Ahwaz and spent the summers in Syria and Lebanon, instructing teachers of English as a second language for the US Information Agency. Later, she completed an MA and PhD in social science at Syracuse University.

When the *Times* advised Shalala to learn reporting at a small-town newspaper, she instead accepted a job teaching political science at Baruch College of the City University of New York in 1970.

Five years later, she was appointed a director of the Municipal Assistance Corporation, established to prevent New York City from tumbling into financial oblivion. MAC's youngest member, she was responsible for issuing \$5 billion in bonds to refinance New York's debt; her work opened the way to a federal post, as assistant secretary for policy development at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Tired of Washington's infighting and power politics, Shalala left a year later to become president of CUNY's Hunter College, which suffered diminished enrollment and crowding in faculty offices.

She turned Hunter around by instructing faculty members to phone applicants with the highest grades and persuade them to attend the college. She raised \$1 million in donations in one year. In 1988, she was named chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, becoming the first woman to head a Big 10 university.

Five years later, Clinton plucked her out of Wisconsin and brought her back to Washington. Her department quickly became the focus of the administration's major domestic battle: for universal health insurance.

Hillary Rodham Clinton's health-care reform task force - of which Shalala is a member - proposed a comprehensive plan for revamping US health services. But, criticized by many as too grandiose and complicated, it has gotten nowhere.

As for her other hat, social services, Shalala is aware of hostility towards welfare programs in the incoming Congress, but feels views on such issues do not run strictly along party lines. "We have learned a lot in recent years: that to fight poverty, you have to give young mothers training, good quality day care and a decent job."

She admires programs here, including *tipat halav* (mother-and-child) clinics and the Hebrew University's HIPHY program, which teaches disadvantaged mothers to play with and educate their preschool children, which has already been adopted in the US.

Nonideal bone marrow could help leukemia patients

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

A new technique developed by Israeli and Italian researchers seems to improve significantly the survival rates of leukemia patients receiving unmatched bone marrow.

The chances of leukemia patients finding a well-matched bone-marrow transplant donor among their close relatives are less than 30 percent.

Only a small number find a tissue-compatible stranger in a computerized data bank who is willing to undergo a minor operation to donate the precious marrow.

Details of the new technique were reported in the December 1 issue of the medical journal *Blood* by Prof. Yair Reisner of the Weizmann Institute's department of membrane research and biophysics and Prof. Massimo Martelli of Perugia University.

The news was prominently reported by news agencies and newspapers around the world.

The method, which combines "fine-tunes" a number of procedures used until now on patients receiving bone marrow from compatible donors, has been described as "an important step forward" by Prof. Shimon Slavin, director of the national bone marrow transplantation (BMT) center at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

He said his center intends to use the new technique soon.

Dr. Claudio Anasetti, a marrow transplant expert at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, called the Reisner-Martelli technique "one of the biggest advances so far in marrow transplantation. It's the highest challenge in marrow transplantation, what they are doing."

Normally, successful BMT requires that tissue types of the donor (usually a sibling) and the recipient be closely matched to avoid rejection, in which the body's immune system recognizes the tissue as foreign and attacks it.

To produce good results, eight histocompatibility sites on the cell, called loci, must be an exact match. In such cases, the cure rates reach 90 percent.

When there is no relative with suitable bone marrow, transplant centers have searched for compatible donors in computerized lists around the world. But although the establishment of large BMT registries has increased the number of transplants between unrelated individuals in recent years, many patients still fail to find donors and die.

On average, an unrelated potential donor with five or six matching loci can be found out of 20,000 individuals. Therefore, reducing mortality in patients who receive less-than-ideally matched bone marrow can offer hope to the many patients who need transplants but lack donors.

BMT is generally undertaken in patients who are severely ill, because its severe complications can themselves be lethal; they receive chemotherapy and radiotherapy to destroy their immune system. An infusion of bone marrow can restore their immune system with healthy cells and cure them.

But if the marrow is not compatible, some residual immunity in patients can recognize it as foreign and reject it.

Reisner worked on rodents in the lab for nearly 10 years searching for a way to get around the need for perfectly matched donors. He concluded that the main reason for rejection of an unmatched marrow graft is residual white cells that manage to survive



Reisner: Pool of potential donors can expand within recipient's family.

chemotherapy and radiation.

The two researchers say they have "overcome" the problem of rejection by giving patients "megadoses" of donor marrow, which supply donor cells with an advantage in competition with recipient cells and minimize the risk of rejection.

"The amount of cells received is so enormous that the recipient's immune system can't fight them all. Since the amount of marrow available from the long bones of the arms or legs is limited, the technique involves giving the patient hormones called cytokines, which increase the number of marrow-forming white cells called 'stem cells' in the bloodstream."

These cells are then collected by a procedure called leukapheresis; the desirable cells are removed selectively and the remaining blood is re-transfused into the body. The total number of cells obtained in this way is seven to 10 times greater than in an ordinary bone-marrow transplant.

The collected marrow cells are then treated using a method Reisner developed a decade ago to enable "bubble" children with severe combined immunodeficiency diseases (SCID) to undergo BMT.

The process, which was also used to treat victims of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl, involves the application of lectin, a soybean derivative, to the marrow to eliminate T-lymphocytes that would otherwise attack the recipient's tissues.

Seventeen Italians in terminal stages of leukemia were given bone marrow from family members that was not fully compatible because no exact match was available.

The marrow successfully implanted itself in 16 of them; six were alive and free of the disease between 100 and 485 days after treatment, even though they had been severely ill.

Nine patients eventually died of complications related to the transplant. This is similar to the mortality rate involved in bone-marrow transplants from perfectly matched donors. Two others had a relapse of leukemia.

Reisner said that if further studies confirm the new technique's initial findings, it could greatly expand the pool of potential donors within a recipient's family to include siblings, parents, uncles and aunts whose tissues are not fully compatible.

BMT is a last-resort treatment not only for leukemia patients, but also those with breast cancer and as many as 60 genetic disorders. The Reisner-Martelli method may be modified to treat also those with non-cancerous blood disorders, such as sickle-cell anemia and thalassemia.

Since the technique requires giving high doses of radiation before transplant, it currently cannot be given to patients with non-lethal disorders.

The megadose approach may also be used in the future to increase the success rates of organ transplantation, as successful BMT performed before the surgery can induce the recipient's "tolerance" toward whole organs taken from another individual.

Quick treatment adds muscle to heart-attack care

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

If a patient receives the necessary treatment within two hours of feeling the first symptoms of a heart attack, a full-fledged attack and its resulting damage to the heart muscle can be prevented 50 percent of the time.

That is the conclusion of a Hadassah-University Hospital study on 510 patients and the amount of damage to the heart muscle they suffered in relation to the time it took for them to reach the hospital.

Prof. Mervyn Gotsman, head of the Ein Kerem hospital's cardiology department, reported in the latest issue of *Hed Hadassah* that chest pains that have gone on for four hours signal a complete obstruction of a coronary artery. In order to prevent or minimize damage to the muscle, the patient must receive drugs that dissolve clots before four hours pass.

The chances of preventing damage to the heart are twice as great in patients who call for an ambulance and receive treatment before reaching the hospital, the Hadassah team found.

In Jerusalem, 90 percent of the patients suffering from acute coronary insufficiency called an ambulance. The time lag between the onset of symptoms and treatment varied from 54 minutes to almost three hours. The ambulance arrived quickly, in one to eight minutes, while the mobile intensive-care-unit team needed about 25 minutes to diagnose the problem and identify patients who, due to other problems, should not receive clot-busting drugs like streptokinase.

Gotsman's team concluded that it is much better for patients to undergo initial treatment at home or wherever they first feel the symptoms than in the emergency room, where doctors may not be able to give all their attention to a single patient, and after more time has elapsed.

The Hadassah cardiologists say it is urgent for an educational campaign to be organized in coordination with the media to help individuals identify the first symptoms (including a crushing pain under the breastbone that spreads to the arms, jaw and neck, which may be accompanied by sweating and dizziness) and seek immediate help.

Gotsman notes that generally the first incident of coronary insufficiency isn't fatal, unless it also results in arrhythmia or cardiac arrest. The second incident is usually much riskier. It is therefore important to reduce the damage suffered by the heart muscle in the first attack and to keep the coronary arteries as open as possible.



The chances of preventing damage to the heart are twice as great in patients who call for an ambulance and receive treatment before reaching the hospital, a Hadassah-University Hospital team recently concluded. (Mike Goldberg)

secondary arteries as open as possible.

ANTI-CHOLESTEROL DRUG SAVES LIVES

A cholesterol-reducing drug named Simvastatin reduces the death rate after coronary infarction or its early symptoms by 30 percent, according to a report at a recent meeting of the American Heart Association in Texas.

The drug, produced by Merck and marketed here since 1992 by Assia-Reisel under the name Simovil, was tested in a study of 4,444 Scandinavian men and women aged 35 to 70 over a period of five years. The study is the first to show clearly that long-term therapy with Simvastatin significantly increases the survival rate among heart patients, the researchers reported. Taking the drug also eliminated the need for a coronary-bypass operation in six of 19 heart patients.

Prof. Shlomo Eisenberg, head of the lipid research institute at Sheba Hospital, said upon return from the Dallas conference that the study clearly shows that lower-

ing blood-cholesterol levels to less than 200 mg./deciliter reduces mortality from heart attacks.

SEX-EDUCATION DIPLOMA

Full-fledged "educators for sexuality" have been granted diplomas by the Israel Family Planning Association. The title allows graduates to teach sex-education courses in the schools, lead groups and teach other educators, says IFPA director Ella Bar-Gai.

Applicants for the courses must have a bachelor's degree from a recognized institute of higher learning or be a graduate of a teachers' seminary or nursing school. They must also have at least three years' experience in the profession for which they were trained. The IFPA's diploma is recognized by the International Planned Parenthood Association.

A HOPELESS WORD FROM THE DOCTOR

A word from a doctor can sometimes kill a patient. That is the apparent lesson of a sad item in the British medical

journal, *The Lancet*.

A man in his mid-50s suffered from chronic lymphatic leukemia, which was not especially severe. This type (from which Golda Meir suffered for decades) is often symptomless, and the patient may live for many years.

The patient suddenly missed his appointment in an outpatient clinic and started to neglect himself. He developed fecal impaction and rapidly went downhill. Within three weeks, he was dead.

Doctors who investigated the case found that he had looked over the shoulder of his family doctor and seen a word written in his medical file: "leukemia."

LISTEN UP

A new laser treatment that makes a tiny hole in the eardrum

to relieve recurrent middle-ear infections in children is being offered at the Herzliya Medical Center (HMC) instead of the surgical insertion of tiny "buttons."

The buttons have been used for years to allow pus to drain out of the middle ear and reduce the incidence of ear infections in young children. It is one of the most common types of surgery; in the US alone, a million toddlers undergo it each year.

The button ordinarily drops out after a while, but if it doesn't, it has to be removed under anesthesia. The button itself can cause infections.

HMC doctors have introduced the use of lasers, which from outside the ear causes a tiny spot in the eardrum to be evaporated under controlled conditions. This hole heals naturally in a number of weeks after allowing the middle ear to drain and air out. HMC claims the treatment is painless, takes only a few minutes and eliminates the complications that may result from the conventional treatment.

Home pregnancy tests are accurate - and private

ARE home pregnancy tests, if carried out correctly, as accurate as lab tests? My husband and I have been trying to conceive, and we prefer knowing the answer quickly and in the privacy of our home. A.C., Holon

Dr. Bari Kaplan, director of the delivery rooms at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva, replies:

Unlike home pregnancy tests available several years ago, all those on sale today are highly sensitive and detect nearly 100 percent of pregnancies even at very early stages. They can pick up the presence of just 10 to 20 millinternational units of hormones produced by a woman with an embryo. The old technique required the presence of 1,000 millinternational units and were accurate only about two weeks after menstruation was supposed to begin.

The new home pregnancy tests can test urine samples from any time of the day, not just the first urine of the day. Pregnancy can now be detected accurately at home from one day before the missed menstrual period. It takes less than five minutes to get the

results, which are highly accurate.

My 11-year-old son came home complaining of pain below his lungs after running (and winning) a half-km. race in his physical-education class. Several other boys had the same complaint. I gave him a hot-water bottle, but it took a day for the pain to disappear. I presume the pain came from his diaphragm. Is this normal? Is there any way to prevent such pain after running? B.T., Netanya

Ariel Karawan, exercise physiologist at the Jerselson Heart Center at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, comments:

It is not dangerous for your son to continue with his half-km. races. Before beginning, however, he needs to do a slow warm-up. This includes stretching, light jogging and some calisthenics to prepare his body.

The physical-education teacher should explain to the boys about pacing, which should be fluent and steady, and show them how to breathe correctly so they receive enough oxygen. They also need psychological preparation, and

the teacher should see that they are relaxed and not tense before they begin this exertion.

Rx FOR READERS

POST HEALTH REPORTER

I am a 68-year-old woman and have suffered from hypothyroidism for the last few years. To make up for this deficiency, I take one (100 mg.) Eltroxin tablet a day. How and why does such an illness begin? What symptoms are there prior to the blood test that detects the condition? Is there any danger of side effects from the thyroid pills? Do my everlasting fatigue, hot flashes and passivity have anything to do with my illness? Could I function without taking the pills? T.B., Tel Aviv

Dr. Shmuel Shilo, head of the endocrinology unit at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, replies:

We don't know why this disease begins. Sometimes we can find antibodies against the thyroid that slowly destroy the gland. Usually it takes time until the symptoms

appear. The classic symptoms are gaining weight, cold intolerance, constipation, dry skin and a slowing down of activity. One doesn't always have all the symptoms, and it takes time to recognize them. There are no dangers of side effects if you take the recommended dosage of 100 mg.

If your TSH levels are within the normal range, there is a good chance your complaints have nothing to do with the illness or treatment. If you stop the medication, you will slowly develop the symptoms mentioned, and even

more. Don't stop taking the pills.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the bi-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389527, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

THE EVENT

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Kissinger on the process

THAT the three Nobel laureates yesterday reaffirmed their commitment to the Declaration of Principles which got them the prize is hardly surprising - they have staked their political life on it. But before moving to the next phase of its implementation, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would do well to heed the advice of Henry Kissinger. Not only because of Kissinger's credentials and experience in the region, but because he is generally a supporter of their policies and has no political axe to grind.

In interviews broadcast on Friday and yesterday, Kissinger said that awarding the prize to Yasser Arafat was at best premature. It would have been wiser to wait until he proved himself a changed man. But Kissinger's main concern was Israel's security. It would be foolish, he said, to sacrifice fundamental security requirements for the sake of a clause in the agreement.

The warning was applicable also to the negotiations with Syria, he said. If Hafez Assad has abided by the separation agreement on the Golan Heights, it is not because he is a man of his word, but because in weighing risks and benefits he found that it would be to his advantage to do so. But it would be unwise for Israel to rely on "permanent goodwill." (In fact, even Peres seems to doubt the permanence of Syria's peaceful intentions. Defending the need for an American military presence on the Golan recently, he stated that leaders may rise in Damascus who will be "old fashioned" enough to believe in the use of force.)

In practical terms, security considerations will indeed determine whether the IDF can go to the next phase of the agreement and withdraw from Arab population centers in Judea and Samaria. As Arafat made clear in his acceptance speech in Oslo yesterday, it is this, more than elections, that the PLO wants.

To assuage Israeli fears, Arafat has vehemently disputed the military intelligence description of the situation in Gaza as a Lebanonization, and assured the press that he will take Israel's security worries into consideration.

Unfortunately, these assurances have little basis in fact. Even Arafat's staunchest boosters in Israel now realize that he has no intention of combating terrorism. On the contrary, immediately after meeting with Peres on Thursday, a day before he went to Oslo, he spoke to a rally marking the seventh anniversary of the intifada in language that unmistakably encouraged violence. The intifada will continue, he said, until "Pale-

stine is redeemed with blood and fire," and the Palestinians achieve "our independent state with Jerusalem as its capital."

With Arafat and the 10,000-strong Palestinian police doing nothing against terrorists, the next withdrawal stipulated in the agreement is an unacceptable risk. As the Gaza experience has shown, any area evacuated by the army turns into a terrorist haven, a place where sheltering, organizing, training and indoctrinating terrorists can be done in the open. To create such havens in Judea and Samaria is to invite ever-increasing terrorism not only against Jewish residents of the territories but Israelis living in Green Line Israel.

Kissinger suggested that Israel should move slowly and deliberately, "step by step, to see what the implications of each move are." Although obviously trying to avoid going into details, he wondered in a radio interview if the army could first evacuate the center of a single Arab town and move to its outskirts to see how well such an arrangement would work. Only then, he suggested, should the army proceed further.

To say that such concern for security must guide the government is to state the obvious. All Israelis want peace, but few are willing to implement an agreement which will jeopardize their personal safety. And the government's first duty is to ensure this safety.

But beyond individual considerations, there is the far more fateful question of the country's strategic security. As MK Dan Meridor (Likud) said yesterday, not only the PLO, but the whole world expects the Nobel-winning Oslo agreement to lead to a Palestinian state on the 1967 lines, with half of Jerusalem as its capital. That such a state - which will inevitably be a dictatorship under the PLO or Hamas or both - would constitute a danger to Jordan and Israel is a given.

This expectation is hardly justified. The Oslo agreement cannot be implemented in any other way. In effect, the DOP has eliminated all reasonable alternatives to this ultimate solution. Such alternatives include both the Likud's plan for a limited autonomy, as envisioned by the late Menachem Begin, or the "territorial compromise," as formulated by the Labor Party on the lines of the Alon Plan, and discarded by its leaders in Oslo. It is perhaps the eradication of alternatives, rather than anything else, which renders the Oslo agreement such a tragic mistake. That this rash, monumental blunder was rewarded with a Nobel Prize yesterday only confirms, not for the first time, that the Nobel committee is no less fallible than the rest of mankind.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE AMAZING MR. TIBI

Sir, - Mr. Ahmed Tibi - Dr. Ahmed Tibi, to give him his due - is an Israeli citizen. He is Arafat's closest collaborator. An Israeli citizen, he is considered a valid PLO representative by the Israeli authorities. This is surely an absurd situation.

It is true that Israel signed some agreements with the PLO, but that the terrorist gang was supposed to invalidate the main tenets of the Palestinian Covenant. As could have been expected it did not do so, and the destruction of the Jewish State remains the official and overt objective of the PLO. And if anyone still entertained any illusions on that score, they should have been dispelled by the recent declarations of PLO leaders, including some from the mouth of the chairman himself, calling for jihad, for struggle against the Zionist enemy, for liberation of Haifa and Beit She'an.

And yet the amazing Mr. Tibi pursues his career of a go-between, an Israeli citizen negotiating with his own government on behalf of a foreign factor, indeed, a hostile factor. He embarked upon his remarkable career when meeting PLO representatives was still illegal. He used them to organize meetings of Israeli peace-lovers with PLO officials, which were to serve the PLO aim of gaining legitimacy. He has continued his blessed efforts on the PLO's behalf after the Oslo agreement, this time as

a representative of the PLO vis-à-vis his own state. He recently enlarged his scope by mediating between the warring factions in the Gaza Strip. Where does he go from there?

A recent poll among Israeli Arabs revealed that 26.5 percent of them would vote for a list headed by that remarkable person. Such a list, one can presume, would be considered as representing the PLO and its objectives. If the poll truly reflects the views of the Israeli Arabs, such a list would get three seats in the Knesset - an open PLO faction in the parliament of the Jewish State.

In the above-mentioned poll, a further 27.6 percent replied that they had "not yet decided" whether to vote for that possible list. Should they decide positively, the list would gain six seats and represent the majority of Israeli Arabs.

It might even gain 12 seats if the strenuous efforts now made to field a common Arab list are crowned with success. Such a faction, in a certain constellation, might decide the future and the character of the "Zionist entity."

Dr. Ahmed Tibi has not yet decided whether to become the PLO's Trojan horse within the Knesset. But, with the chairman's blessing, he may yet become the acknowledged leader of the Israeli Arabs.

K. BEN ARIE

Herzliya

DRIVER EDUCATION

Sir, - I worked in the US as an emergency medical service paramedic prior to my aliyah. I saw my share of death on the roads. Nothing I saw compares to what is happening here.

There is no question that the police must enforce the law. Punitive action on behalf of law enforcement agencies is a must, but this alone will never solve the problem. Automatic cameras and the like will not save lives, they will only increase the municipal bank accounts.

We need to begin by changing the attitudes of the driver, and the first area to tackle is the poor driving instruction in the country. We do not need to put all the drivers in a class as much as we need to re-teach the driving instructors. Their main concern is how many lessons can be squeezed into a single business day. It should be illegal for driving instructors to utilize their two-way radios and cellular phones while giving classes.

One student at a time only should be in the car. This system of commercialized instruction, booking new appointments on the car phones while students drive, must be stopped.

In America, a licensed driver can teach a student who has obtained a learner's permit. In Israel, only a so-called professional instructor can teach. How can we explain the tragic results?

Driver education in high schools has been proven, it works. Insurance companies offer reductions for drivers certified in driver education in the US.

Start to teach respect for the road at the right age in the correct atmosphere. This would also teach proper driving attitudes prior to army service where statistics show the alarming rate of road deaths.

YECHIEL SPIRA

Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S RESPONSIBILITY

Sir, - A Jerusalem Post November 30 report quotes Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin as calling on the US to reform its laws to enable it "to take substantial measures" against Islamic fundamentalists whose actions "are intolerable in a democratic society," and to deport those engaged in illegal activities.

First, Deputy Minister Beilin should realize that it is not for Israeli officials to publicly advise or lecture a foreign nation on what laws it should enact and how it should enforce them; such public advice will undoubtedly be regarded with contempt by the nation in question. Second, rather than attempting to serve as a source of ideas on how a foreign nation should combat Israel's enemies, Israeli officials like Deputy Minister Beilin would do well to focus their efforts on Israel's dealings with its enemies. Mr. Beilin knows that we Israelis have the means to effectively contain and suppress Hamas, but we do not fully utilize them. To carp about the policies and laws of other nations is to deflect from the primary responsibility that Israel has to protect its own citizens.

In the same issue of the Post, you quote Dr. Yehuda Reinharz, president-designate of Brandeis University, as saying that Islam will soon become very important in the US "in terms of numbers, power and financial resources." Given the increasing political power of Islam in the US, we Israelis can only expect less from the US and we must expect more, if not all, from ourselves.

JONATHAN GELBER

Jerusalem

KOSHER FOOD

Sir, - In her Grapevine column of November 18, Greer Fay Cashman mentions the wife of a diplomat who complains that, although she was expected to consider the needs of those who keep kosher, no one considered her desire for nonkosher food when she was at an IDF function.

Surely it is rather insensitive if someone cannot distinguish between needs and wants. Is it so difficult to understand that those who wish to observe religious laws have no choice, they either eat kosher or go hungry? Others can eat either kosher or nonkosher (or both) and in the absence of the latter do not have to starve.

JACK SKLAN

Jerusalem



PRIZE \$ 316,000

What a lousy suggestion

LABOR MK Yoram Lass needs his head examined.

The worthy professor, a physician, has proposed a bill requiring teachers to send home any children they find infested with lice and bar their return until they reappear with clean heads. The Education Ministry has very wisely rejected it out of hand.

Such legislation might, in fact, have the effect of greatly increasing the esteem in which head lice are held - at least among kids willing to "buy" them for auto-infestation, thereby evading a tough exam. But it is unlikely to improve children's self-esteem.

It is true that pediculosis no longer bears the stigma it once did. The little creatures, in fact, seem to prefer clean scalps to dirty ones. Even England's Prince William was reportedly sent home from his kindergarten with a note about lice, which undoubtedly sent Princess Diana into a frenzy of shampooing and going over her son's head with a fine-tooth comb.

Lass, a former Health Ministry director-general and dean of the Tel Aviv University medical school, told this reporter that he was motivated to take up the battle against head lice after "two new-immigrant women from the US told me of their shock in discovering their children had pediculosis."

"One of them said she went back to the US specifically to investigate the matter. She spoke to health officials in Wayne County, Michigan, and was told that the policy there of immediately sending home any children found to have lice had done the trick. Their schools are now lice-free."

Added the health-conscious MK: "Our kids' heads are walking zoos, and something drastic must be done."

Parents who regularly check their children's heads and treat their pediculosis four or five times finally give up because the children get re-infested so easily.

"The only way out," said Lass, "is to have school nurses, kindergarten teachers and day-care staff check kids at least once a month and send home those found to be infested - if you like, after a first warning. Most of the class will be

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

out for one day, but soon they'll all be back with clean heads."

CALM DOWN, Prof. Lass.

The itching is annoying and the bugs disgusting, but no one ever died of pediculosis. But sensitive children labeled "infested" and sent home like lepers through no fault of their own could "die of shame."

Dr. Kosta Mumcuoglu, a Hebrew University parasitologist regarded as the country's leading expert on head lice, begs to differ from the eager MK. He thinks the proposed legislation would be useless, even harmful.

"It just isn't realistic," he insists. "I am called an expert, but it takes me at least five minutes to go over a child's head with a fine-tooth comb to find lice. My team of three or four takes a whole morning to do the job in a school of 400."

"School nurses just look behind the ears and usually report 'lice' when they, in fact, see only dead, empty nits; and they spend no more than a few seconds on this 'examination.'"

"But," Mumcuoglu explains, "there is absolutely no justification for treating children for lice if they have only eggs. Many eggs are harmless, since they will never hatch. And many others, which hatched long ago, are just empty cases. Any egg more than half a centimeter from the scalp is dead."

Mumcuoglu denies that any country or district is free of pediculosis.

My own children - a son in fifth grade, a daughter in third grade and a son in pre-compulsory kindergarten - all confirm Mumcuoglu's contention that nurses and teachers never wield combs to check for lice.

"They just tickle us with their fingers once a year, and that's after sending a note home to tell the parents in advance," said the fifth grader. "How can kids be sent home? They'll miss their classes and be too embarrassed to come back," added the third grader.

Mumcuoglu notes that shampoos based on permethrin are now ineffective, since the lice have quickly developed resistance to this once highly effective pesticide. But unfortunately, the Health Ministry hasn't banned the sale of permethrin-based preparations, which only increases the parasite's resistance and wastes parents' time and money.

The only effective preparations contain malathion, and this is found only in Frioderm shampoo, and in Monocid and Nonyl lotions.

While these will take care of acute infestation, parents should go over their children's heads at least once a week with a fine-tooth comb. Combing breaks lice legs, and they are doomed.

Robi Kombi, a locally invented device that electrocutes lice and kills some eggs - but has been safely tested for children - is effective on those with short- or medium-length straight or wavy hair.

So let's nip Lass's bill in the bud, and store it away with all the other well-intentioned but useless ideas raised in the Knesset.

Instead, the Education and Health Ministries should consider trying a carrot rather than a stick. They should send all children home with pamphlets explaining exactly how to get rid - and stay rid - of lice.

Mumcuoglu is thinking of making an educational film on the subject. The government should finance it and show it on TV, with special screenings for nurses.

Schools might offer children a toy or a book in return for coming in with a lice-free head. Children eager for prizes are guaranteed to nag their parents to do the job just right.

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The writer is the health reporter of The Jerusalem Post.

Cool lady

LALLY WEYMOUTH

IN a country where a radical Islamist party is growing in strength and increasing numbers of women are seen on the streets of major cities wearing the chador, Turkey's prime minister, 48-year-old Tansu Ciller, is a decidedly modern woman who has surprised the experts with her staying power.

Virtually every move Ciller makes is controversial. Some Turks criticize her as a disorganized novice, an academic-turned-premier. Others say she has failed to deal with Turkey's economic crisis. Inflation is running at 116 percent, and the growth rate is negative.

Turkey's relationship with Washington has deteriorated in the post-Cold War era, and the army is deployed fighting terrorists in the southeast.

Turkey's premier continues to confound her critics

Meanwhile, Ciller's engaged in an effort to reschedule a by-election for some national assembly seats, a vote originally scheduled for early December. Experts have been predicting that Ciller's party, the True Path, will fare poorly, since the majority of seats at stake are located in the southeast, where the radical fundamentalist "Welfare Party" is strong.

Yet the prime minister appears cool and unflappable: "We are the majority party in parliament... and I think we'll increase that majority... We're going to do much better than ANAP [the other right-of-center party]... I'm secular, democratic and progressive, and this is what people want."

Ciller claims that the Islamic fundamentalist Welfare Party has only 15 or 16 percent of the vote, and that many of its supporters are protest voters reacting against Turkey's economic problems.

As Ciller sees it, she's faced with two major problems: an economic crisis and a terror threat.

In the economic realm, she's trying to privatize the state sector. "I'm for a free market economy... but we've had problems in the economy because the government sector was so big. The government is in finance, in banking, in manufacturing - everywhere."

WHEN CILLER became prime minister, the Syrian-sponsored PKK terrorists controlled large areas of southeast Turkey. Although Turkish officials haven't noticed any dropoff in Syrian support for the terror group, Ciller says that the army has regained control over much of the southeast.

The prime minister says confidently that factories and schools are open again, having been closed for six years. "Life is getting back to normal... and I achieved this in one year," she says.

Ciller's government has been criticized for the harsh methods used by the army in fighting the PKK, but Ciller claims she had no choice: "The fight was not against people living in the southeast [but] against the PKK, who were killing the Kurdish and Turkish people without discrimination."

In foreign affairs, Ciller notes that Turkey was a faithful US ally during the Cold War. It cooperated with the US and its allies in the Gulf War, shutting down an oil pipeline from Iraq that had produced large revenues for Turkey, thus causing domestic economic hardship.

Recently, when Saddam marched toward Kuwait, Ciller said she told President Clinton: "We back the US 100 percent" and that she would provide any help requested."

But she is wary of renewing Operation Provide Comfort, the program initiated by the US and the international community to aid the Kurds in northern Iraq.

"My people... feel it might help separate northern Iraq from the rest of the country," she says. "We feel the territorial integrity of Iraq should be maintained."

Ciller has endeavored to warn Washington about Russia's aggressive posture. "We cannot close our eyes to the fact... that there are forces within Russia who want to go back to the old empire, to the old ways... Aggression should be stopped - be it in Bosnia, in Azerbaijan, or Kuwait."

Tansu Ciller plans to guide Turkey into the Customs Union of the European Union. Then, she wants Turkey to play some role in the Middle East peace process. And she wants to help the Turkic Republics of the former Soviet Union emerge into independence.

But, she says, "We need help." She does. She also deserves it. (Washington Post)

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



It may not look like much, but it's poised to take over Western civilization: it's the first solar-powered robotic lawn mower. Larry Smith, of Handyman Rent-All in Tampa, watches the 6 kg contraption skim over his lawn. It costs a tad under \$2,000, is powered by 34 solar cells and is utterly useless to us here because the average Israeli lawn is smaller than a lawnmower. (AP)

POSTSCRIPTS I

A CLUMSY thief is in jail in Osaka because of his arms - and legs.

He was armed with a crossbow, axe, stun gun, smoke grenade and can of mace, but all his preparations were for nothing after he tripped over his own feet making his getaway.

Police said the thief was so laden down with the weapons, plus a stolen metal box full of money and a gray wig he was wearing, that he fell over himself during the crime at Osaka's main railway station.

The thief fired a rubber-tipped arrow from his crossbow at three bank employees carrying 120 million yen (\$1.2 million).

Startled by the unusual attack, one employee dropped a box of money. The suspect snatched the box and fled less than 100 meters before tripping. He was seized by a passerby.

AN ISRAELI woman is seeking a divorce because she says her husband is infatuated with Hillary Clinton.

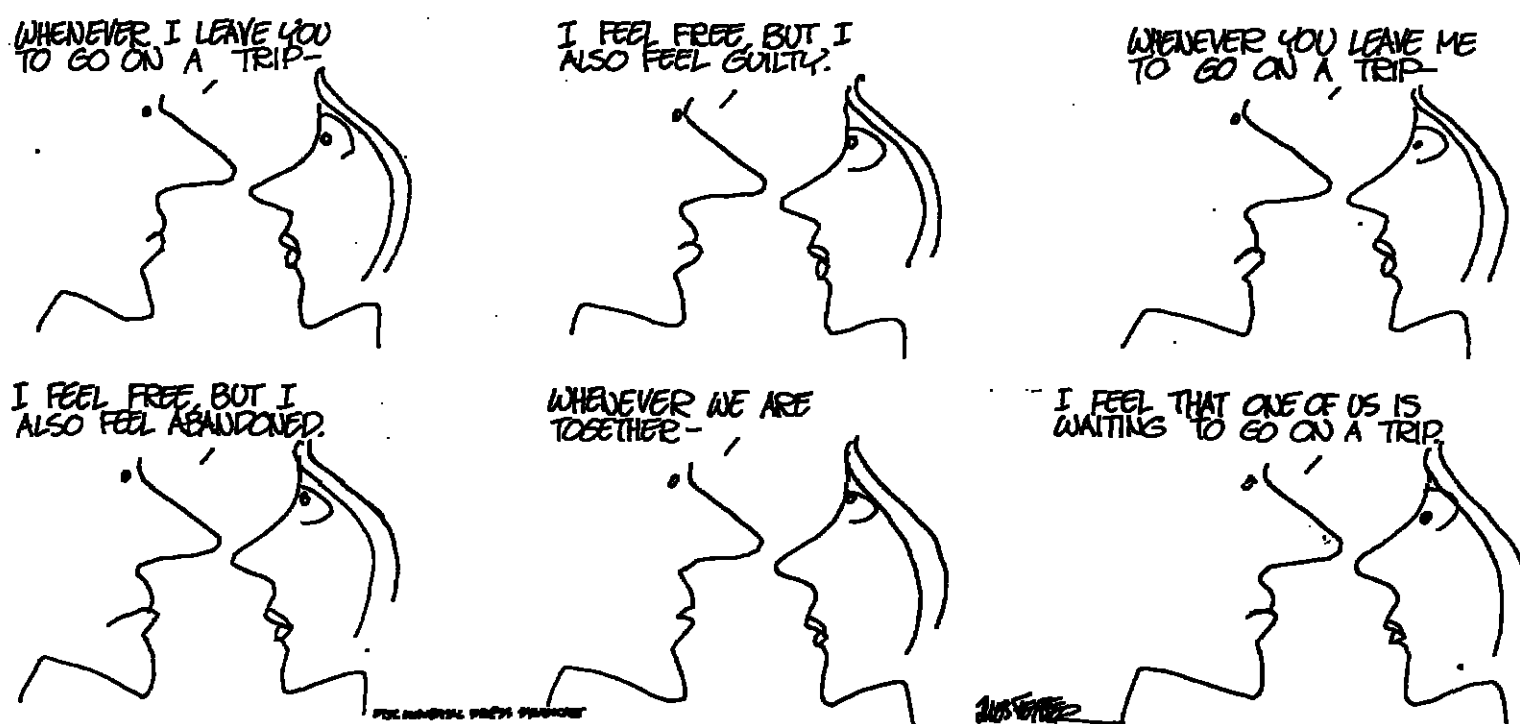
"When my husband heard that the Clintons were coming to Israel, he lost all control," Yediot Aharonot quoted her as saying in divorce papers. "He waited in front of my Jerusalem hotel for hours just to see his beloved."

The unidentified woman, who is in her 30s, said her 40-year-old spouse had obsessively collected press clippings and photographs of the first lady ever since Bill Clinton became president.

December 11, 1994

مكتبة الأمل

FEIFFER®



OP ED Hamas 1, PLO 0

It is worse than the Israelis. "Arafat is worse than Ceausescu." "Arafat, killer." "The Israeli army didn't act this way." "Arafat must hang." These quotations, culled from the press, seem to reflect popular Palestinian reaction to the violent encounter between PLO police and Hamas militants after Friday prayers in Gaza. Eighteen people died and more than 200 were wounded, a toll larger than any in the intifada. The next day Hamas overwhelmed the autonomy regime's forces at a checkpoint near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim; and trouble broke out in two towns on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. This may be the beginning of a Palestinian civil war that has been festering for years.

Of course, each side charges the other with undermining national unity, of which each side also fervently believes it is the sole guarantor. But this conflagration was no great surprise. Hamas was itching for a brawl, and called its people into the street to shed just enough Palestinian blood to turn the mob decisively against Arafat. But Arafat made a choice, too. He could have let the demonstrators do their thing — even throw rocks, their habitual activity. But, schooled in how terror induces consensus, Arafat's men are not used to insouciance, and seized the first big provocation as

they find it so difficult is something with which all the peace processors need grapple.

In other words, the PLO cannot have a peace treaty that does not bring peace to the Israelis. But bringing peace to Israel is precisely what Hamas and the Islamic Jihad will not countenance. Ultimately, then, Arafat and his comrades will be forced to choose between losing their partnership with Israel and losing the arbiters of Palestinian politics, the young men in the streets. Right now, of course, the PLO will still attempt to keep both, gesturing one way and then the other. But the rules of the world in which it operates will push the Arafat party into more and more concrete concessions to the Muslim extremists, and these concessions will be paid for in Jewish lives.

It will not be long before Israel is counseled to negotiate with the Islamic militants. But peace processes are not so easy with people who kill as a way of getting to paradise. It is hard for Westerners to understand that compromise is neither the name nor the logic of millenarian desire. Neither is economics. Commenting on the Gaza riot, a spokesperson for the State Department urged "the international donor community... [to] live up to its commitments and to take steps to fulfill the pledges that have already been made." But the Palestinians

Arafat and his comrades will be forced to choose between losing their partnership with Israel and losing the arbiters of Palestinian politics, the young men in the streets.

an opportunity to put it down. The score thus far: Hamas 1; PLO 0. The Islamic Jihad, even more extreme than Hamas, kept its faithful off the streets on that Friday. They hate the Arafat establishment, too. In the overwrought politics of Gaza, then, the odds are not promising for the chairman. The truce with Hamas to which he has assented recognizes these odds: it is a truce initiated by the defeated.

Still, Arafat is a survivor. Alas, for him, survival is becoming still harder. He wants and needs the continued support of the Israelis, without which he will end up with only Jericho and Gaza to show for his handshake on the White House lawn. But the Israelis will demand that he finally get the Palestinian National Council to do what he promised fifteen months ago in Washington, that is, to annul those sections of the PLO charter that call for the dismantling of the Jewish state. That the Palestinians find this symbolic act difficult we all know. That

outside the Gaza mosque were not demanding investment loans from the World Bank. They were protesting against a regime that had parlayed with the Jews and that wouldn't, they feared, impose exemplary Koranic norms on emergent Palestine. This is a worldview that simply cannot be bought off.

"Bring Rabin back," screamed on of the Gaza "children of the stones," as Arafat used to call them in what were for him simpler days. Of course, the youth did not really want Rabin back. Nobel Prize of not. Rabin is being tested by the events in Gaza. He has counted on the reasonableness of the Palestinians and was reasonable himself. Even after the Tel Aviv bus atrocity he accelerated the devolution of power in the territories to the PLO. If he finds he was wrong, however, as even many Israeli doves are beginning to suspect, the party will end even before it ever really started.

Op Ed is a collaborative effort of the editors of The New Republic.

Alan Dershowitz Newt Gingrich's God Isn't For Everyone

Newt Gingrich is certainly right about one thing: If our Bill of Rights were to be amended so as to "guarantee" a "right" to pray and teach "creation" in public elementary and high schools, such an amendment would dramatically transform the nature of our country. It would not do what Gingrich claims he believes would happen: We would not suddenly become a drug-free nation of God-fearing, law-abiding, hard-working, teetotaling, monogamous, "normal" patriots. There is absolutely no evidence that praying or being taught creation in school will serve as a panacea for the world's problems — especially if accompanied by a reduction in material resources devoted to prenatal care and early education, as Gingrich also proposes.

But amending our two-century-old Bill of Rights — for the first time ever — in order to achieve that extremist Gingrich model of church-state merger would turn our national landscape into a religious battlefield on which Americans of all religious and non-religious beliefs, disbelievers and doubts would be fighting each other for the support of the state. Let there be no doubt what Gingrich has in mind. He said it directly in a recent interview in *The Washington Times*. He wants to establish "the right to teach that there is a Creator from whom your inalienable rights come." He is thus not satisfied with some silent or bland prayer to open the school day — divisive as that would be in a nation in which hundreds of different organized religions and countless individual faiths now coexist in relative harmony. He wants to amend our Bill of Rights to give

teachers the "right" to proselytize about creation as part of the official public school curriculum.

Gingrich must know that there are many different beliefs about the meanings of the creation stories (there are two different ones in Genesis alone) — ranging from the fundamentalist literal acceptance of the six-day version to more symbolic interpretations consistent with ever-changing scientific explanations. Would he deny teachers the right to teach purely scientific approaches which take no position on religion? Does he want to fill our courts with "monkey trials," such as the notorious one made famous by the play and movie *Inherit the Wind*? Does he want each state to be free to "establish" its particular version of creation as the official one for its schools? Or will "Gingrichism" — whatever it may be — be legislatively mandated as the one true interpretation of how the universe began and from where our rights derive? Will students be graded by whether they believe in one version or another? Will teachers be required to take oaths that they believe in creation, thus requiring yet another amendment to the constitutional provision forbidding religious tests for government officials? Will state officials monitor classes to be sure that creation is properly taught? Or will we rely on student informers?

At a time of religious warfare throughout the world — Muslim fundamentalists assassinating modernists, Jewish fundamentalists opposing the Mideast peace process on religious grounds, anti-choice zealots shooting abortion doctors — should we

count our blessings for the wall of separation which has preserved both church and state in our heterogeneous society. There is more church attendance, more prayer, more religious charitable giving, more declared belief in God in our nation, where there is no "establishment" of religion, than in any other modernized nation with established churches or governmentally encouraged religion. Religion does not need the help of the state, nor should it accept governmental support, lest it lose its independence.

Indeed, praying and teaching creation in the schools tend to trivialize religion and encourage cynicism among students, who have keen eyes for posturing and hypocrisy. And what about children whose religions or traditions oppose governmentally sponsored prayer and proselytizing? Gingrich assures us it will all be voluntary. But surely even he understands the pressure toward conformity in elementary and high school. There is no such thing as "voluntary" religion when conducted by teachers and principals.

One of the few things in America that isn't broken is the wall of separation between church and state. It has served us well, especially since the beginning of this century when we became the most heterogeneous country in the world. We are divided along many lines, but religion is not one of them. Let's not fix the wall of separation, lest we destroy it.

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PERSPECTIVE WEEKLY

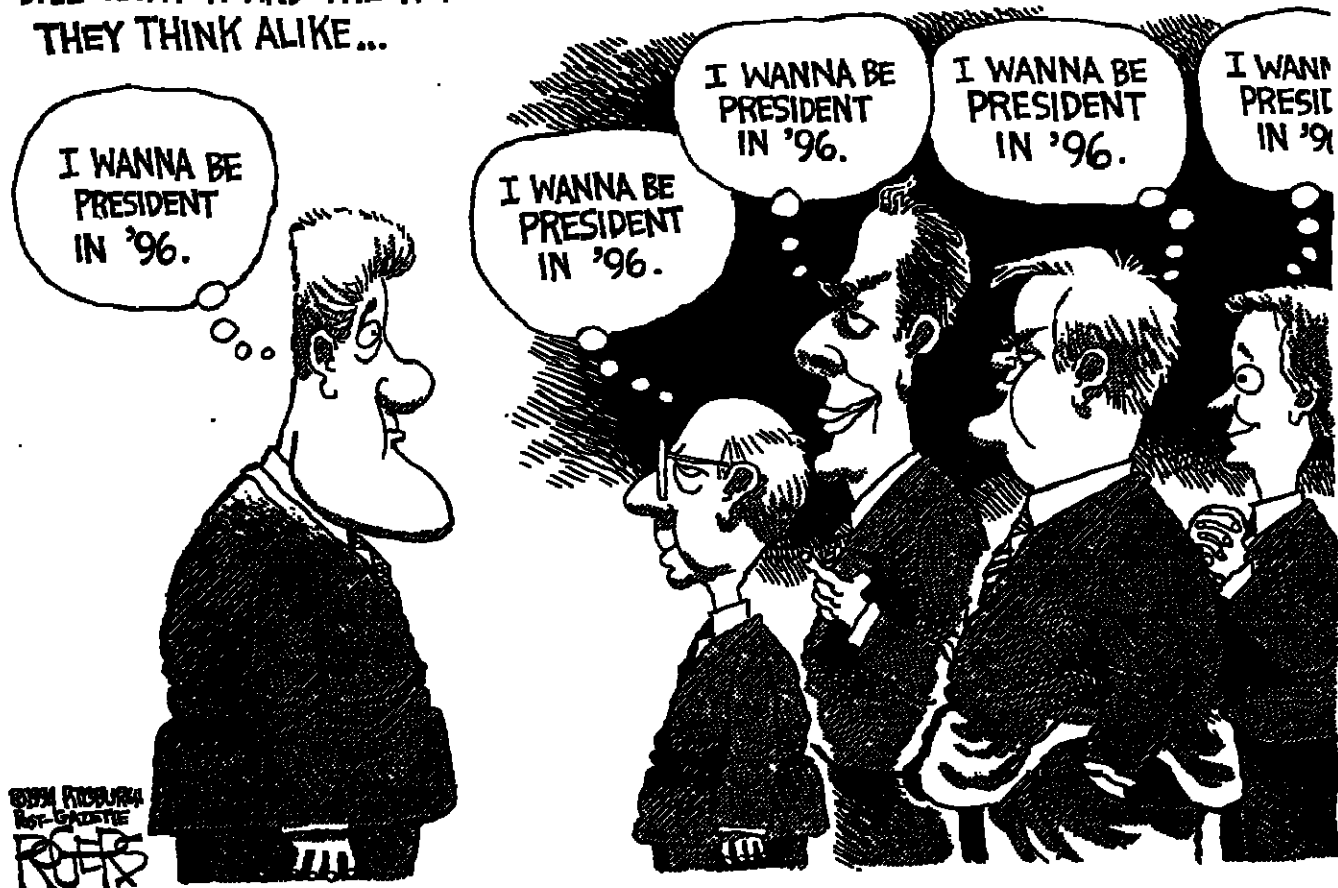
Editor
Guy Bernfeld



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EDITORIAL CARTOONS

BILL CLINTON AND THE REPUBLICANS FIND THAT ON ONE KEY ISSUE THEY THINK ALIKE...



Things Are Better, People Aren't

Andy Rooney

If the world is always going to hell, which it seems to be, how come, after something like 5,000 years of organized life on the planet, it hasn't already arrived there? It may yet.

There's no question that the behavior of human beings has not improved as much as the tools they have invented to make life easier for themselves. The Romans don't put Christians in a ring with hungry lions anymore, but the actions of many of the people on Earth today hardly seem more civilized than that.

much in my lifetime as people's attitudes toward sex. It has had more impact on life in the world than turning in kerosene lamps for electric lightbulbs has had.

Thirty years ago, I wouldn't have considered writing a column with the word "sex" in it. I sometimes listen to a morning radio program in New York, conducted by a man named Don Imus, that is often pornographic in content. It's accepted by the FCC, by a lot of listeners and by me because Imus is bright and funny. He operates on the theory that if we all talk

There's no question that the behavior of human beings has not improved as much as the tools they have invented to make life easier for themselves.

There's nothing in human nature that has advanced to the same extent as our ability to communicate with each other has improved. We are not better people than our predecessors to the same degree that our ability to travel to see each other is better. We're the same people our ancestors were but we're living in a world with a lot of inventions they didn't have that make out lives easier and pleasanter. Our inventions make us appear to have made more progress than we have.

We're as dumb as ever. We're smart enough to have figured out ways to prolong out lives with better medical practices but so dumb that we're having more babies than we can take care of. Between the people who don't die and the babies who are born, we're creating a population that the Earth isn't big enough to hold.

I wouldn't want to die a few days before they find the medical secret for making all of us immortal, but I'd hate to try and drive any place in traffic 100 years from now when our population may be 10 times what it is today.

Even though I don't think people have improved, I can't deny they have changed and there is nothing that has changed so

openly about everything. It will be a better world. I accept that as an intellectual premise but reject it in my own life, where I find some self-censorship a more civilized course to take.

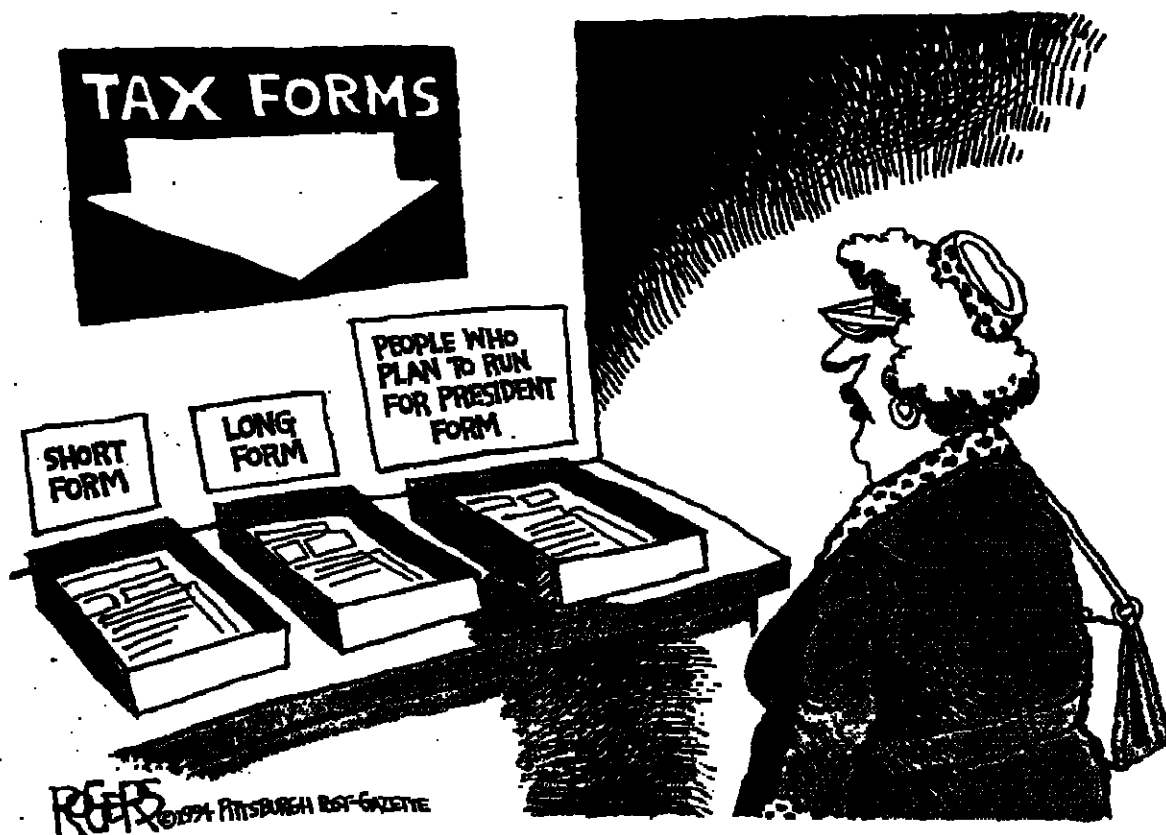
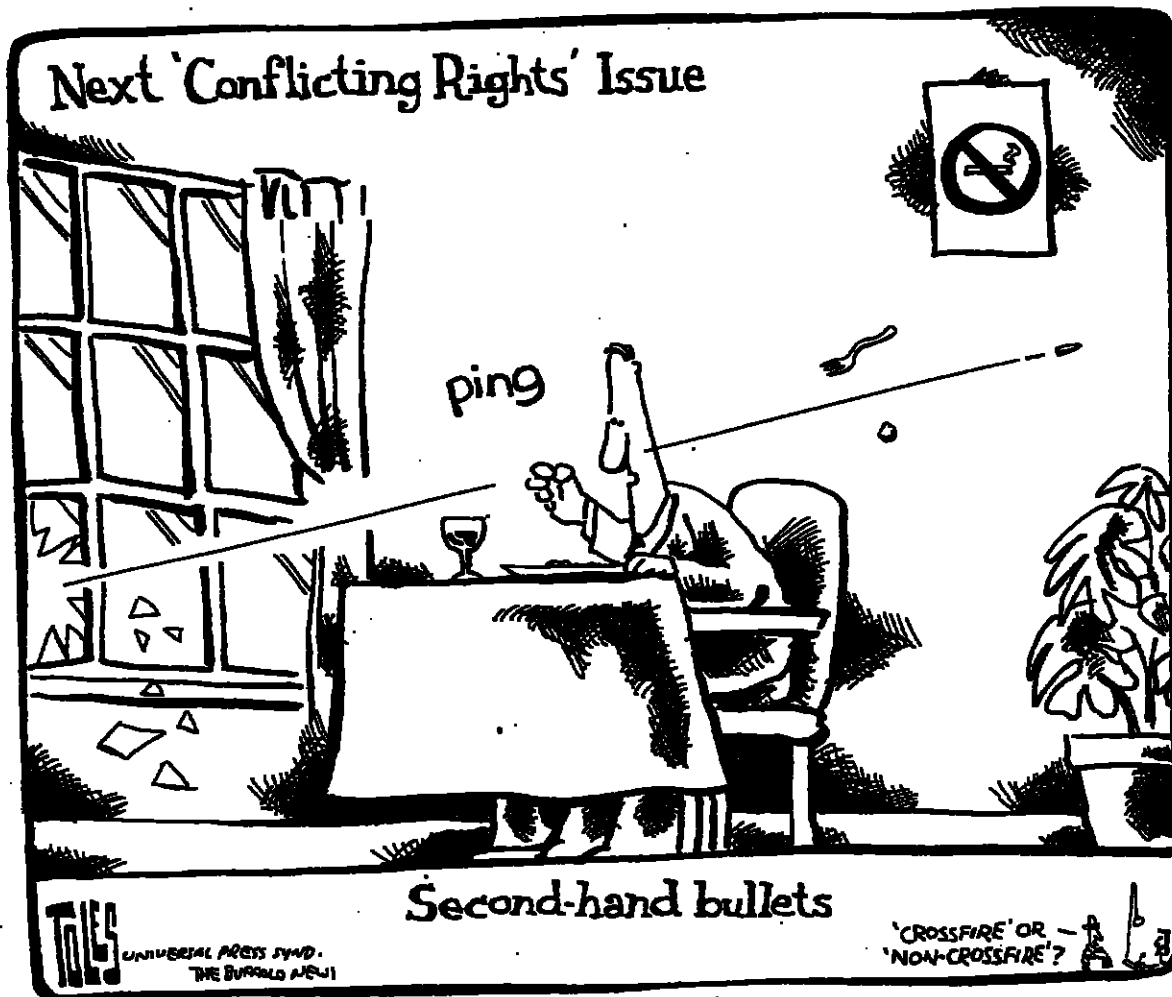
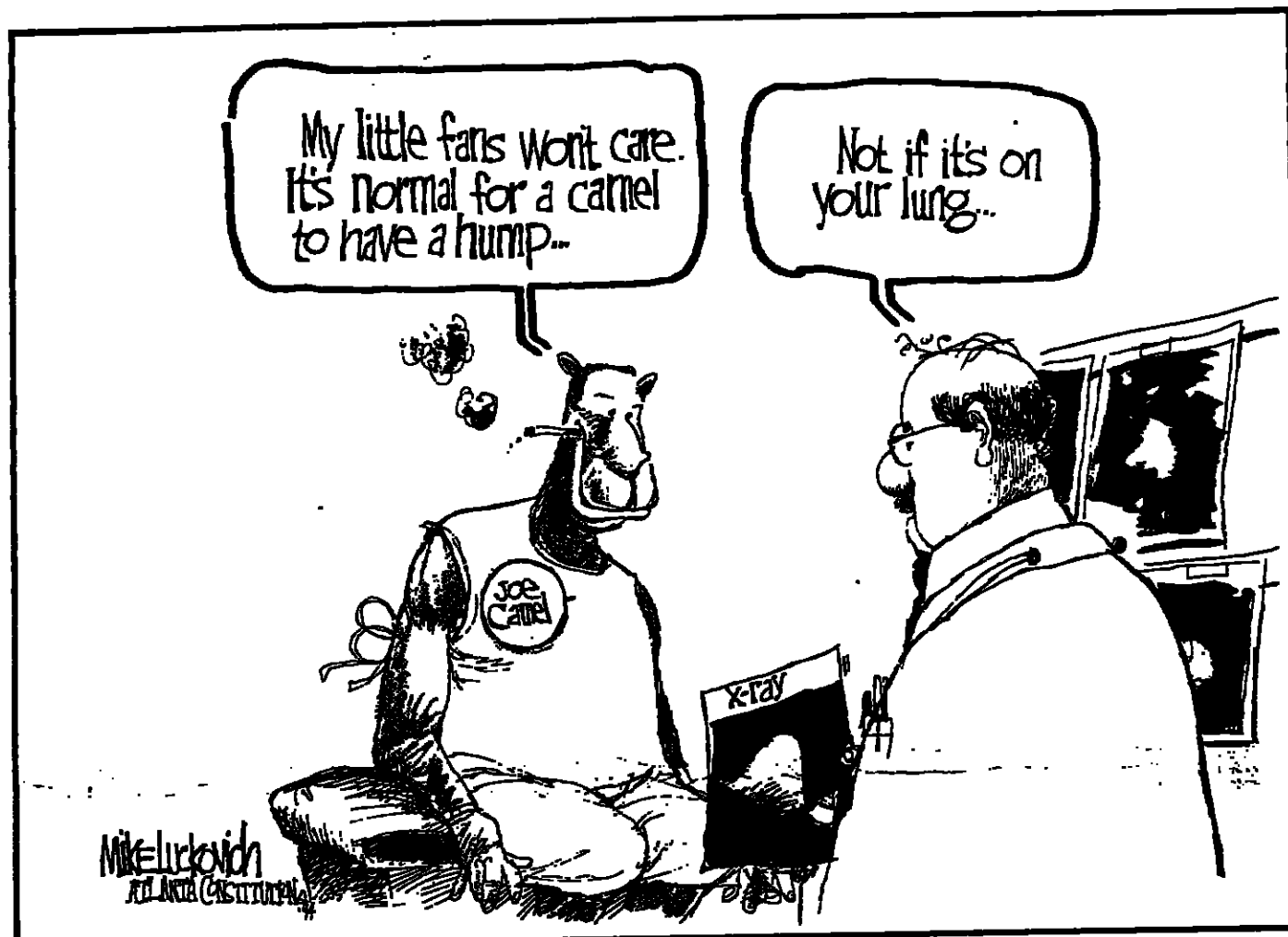
When my parents were young, a man proposed to a girl by asking for her hand in marriage. The next step was for the young man to go to the girl's father and ask his permission. How far removed is that as a course of action from taking a girl out on a date for the first time and having sex with her in the back seat of a car before dropping her off later at her father's house?

When I asked a girl to go to a high school dance, I went to a florist that afternoon and sent her a bouquet of flowers.

Now a young man doesn't go to the florist, he stops off at a convenience store and buys a pack of condoms. Is this social progress? What's the next step? Where do we go with dating in the next 100 years?

I dislike a lot of good-old-days talk because I don't think the good old days were any better than the days we have now but as far as the conventions of sex go, I think they used to be better and more civilized.

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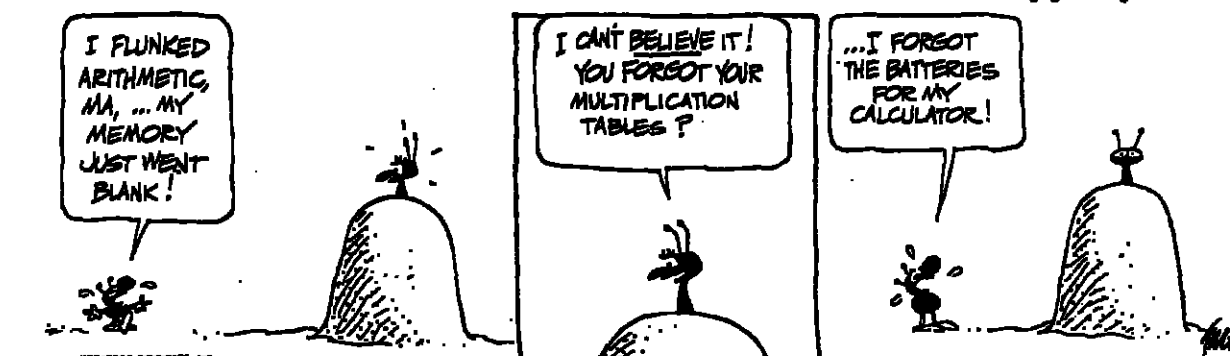
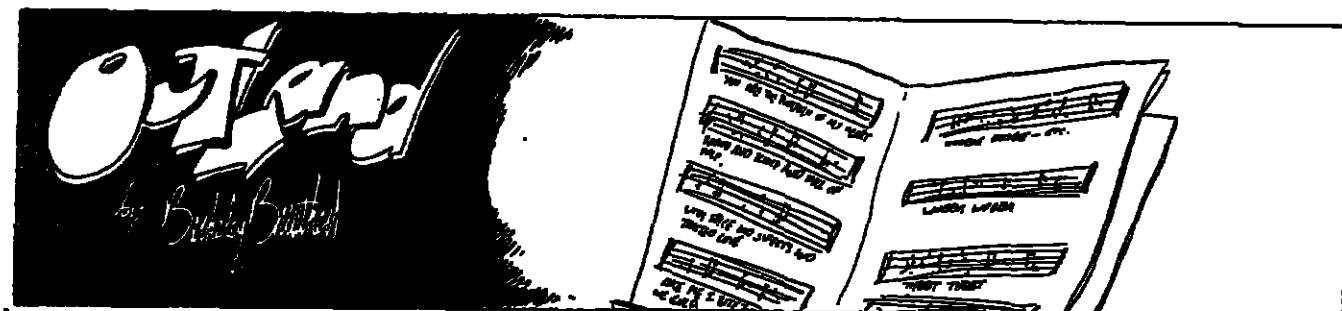
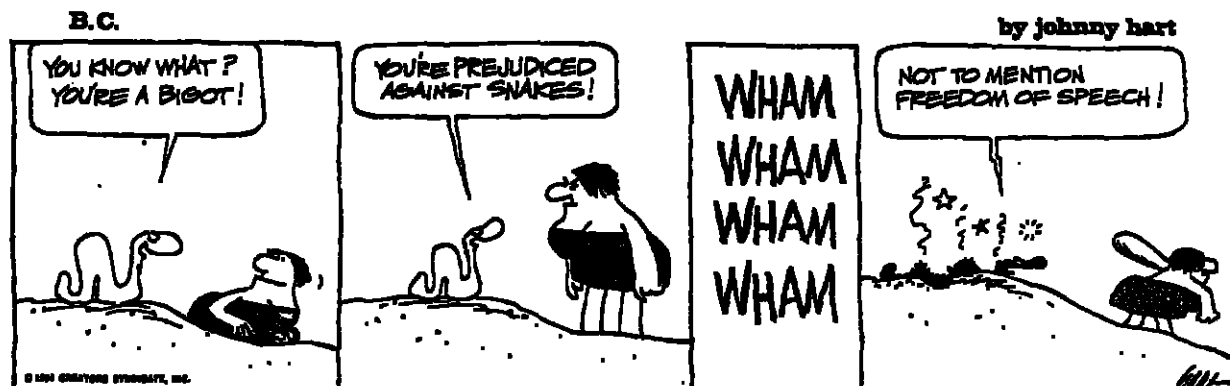


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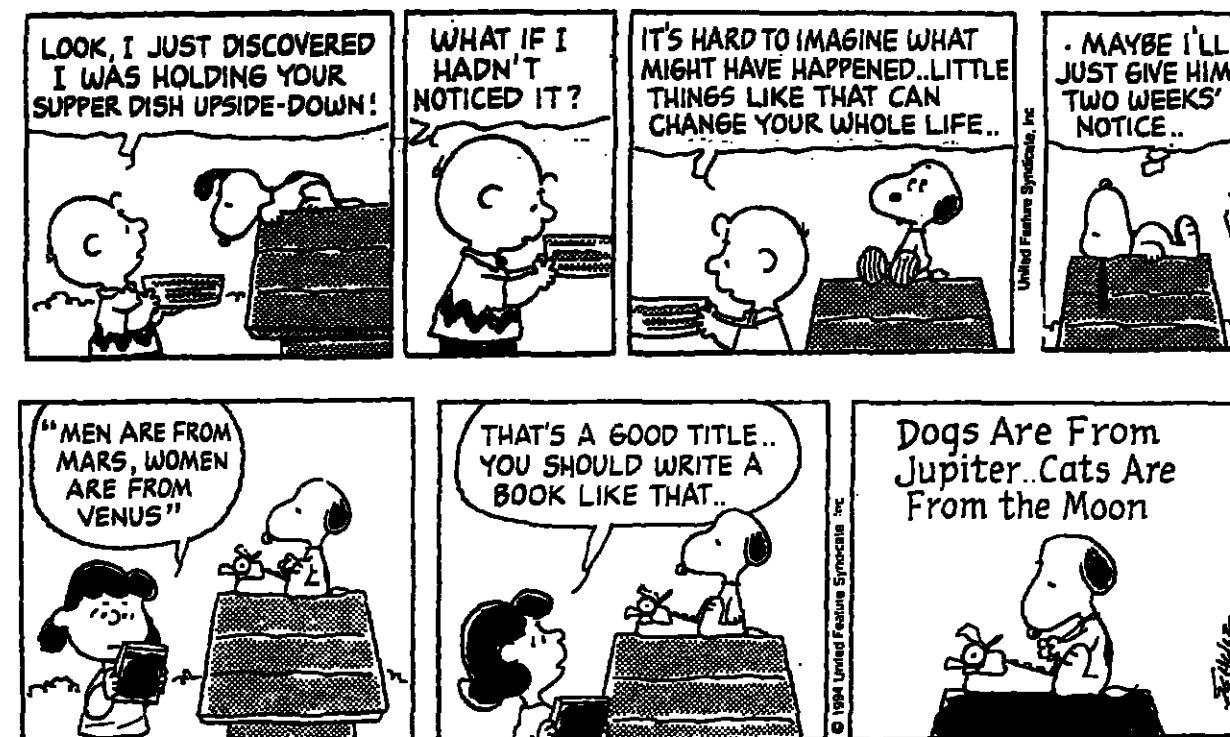
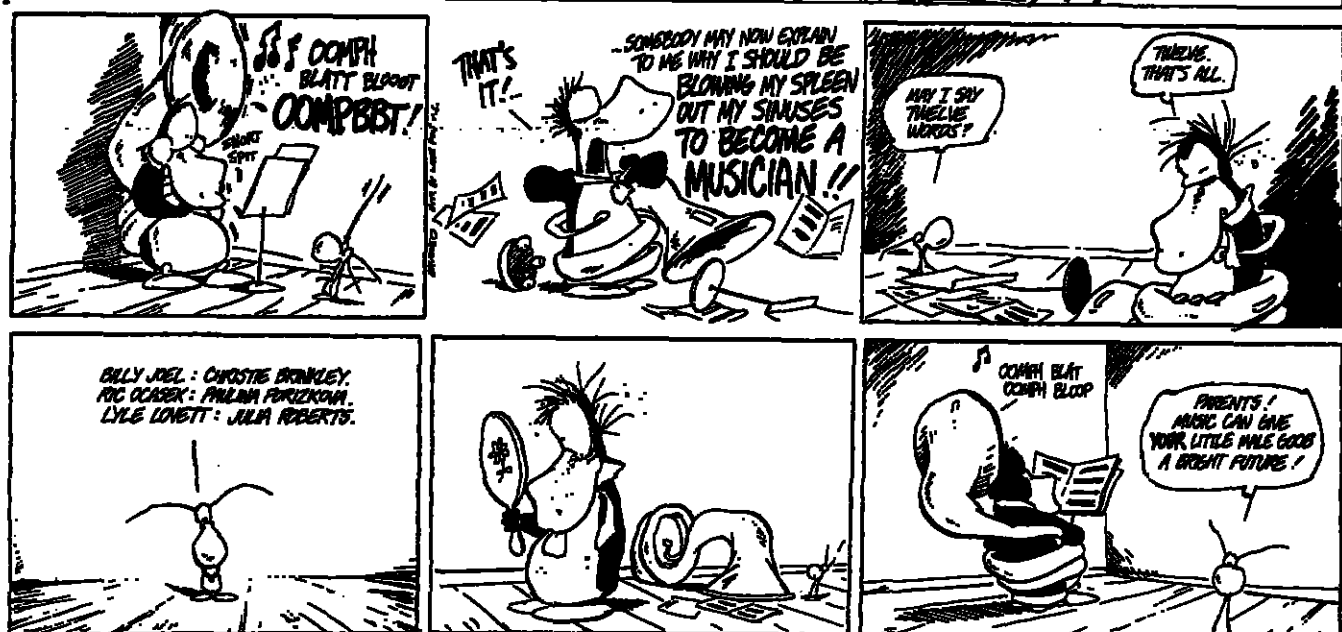
by Bill Watterson



by Jeff MacNelly



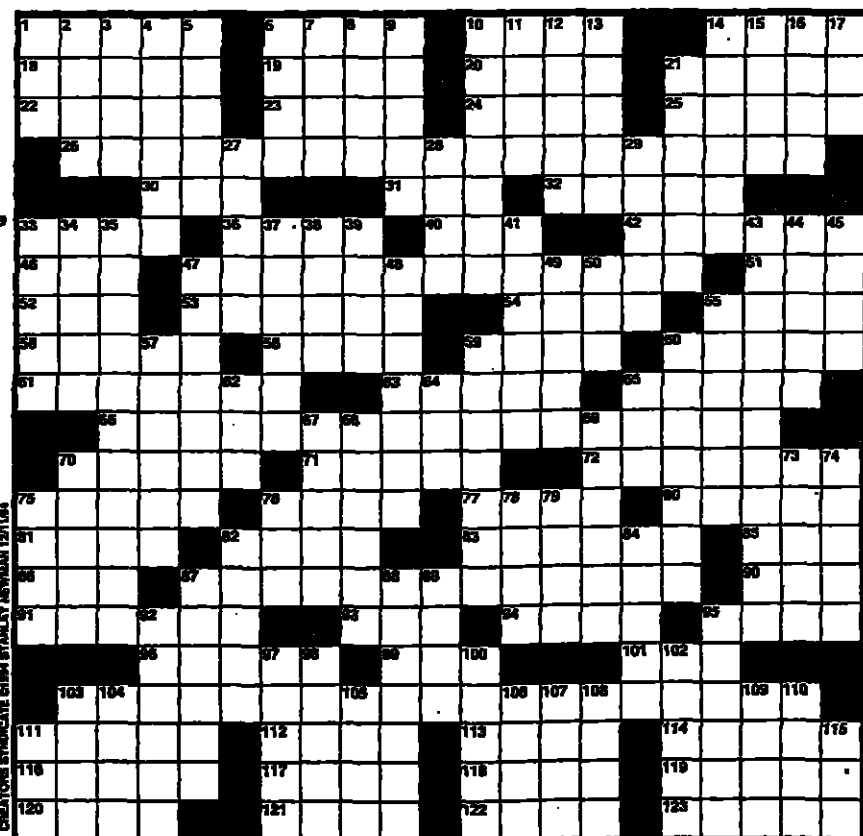
by Charles Schulz



And, as you travel life's highway, don't forget to stop and eat the roses.

Edited by Stanley Newman
ENCORES: Curtain calls of note
by Shirley Soloway

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"Calm down, Edna . . . Yes, it's some giant, hideous insect . . . but it could be some giant, hideous insect in need of help."

QUOTE CRYPTOGRAM by Rebecca Kornbluh

DCYJH EWLY XYYB AQHJYGRCKHUQ HRUYBJ CB JEY HKXIYZJ CS ZEYYH

- T. O. ZEYHJYGJCB

Last Week's Quote Cryptogram: Start every day off with a smile and get it over with – W. C. Fields

Not Crazy

The trial of the first and so far only defendant charged with war crimes in Serbia opened last week in the small town of Sabac, fifty-five miles west of Belgrade. Serbian liberals — or what's left of them — regard it as a crude diversion from the trials started at the International Court in the Hague. The nationalists see it as a show trial staged for political reasons and aimed unjustly at one of their boys. Both sides are probably right, since the whole thing is one big farce to prove that only drunkards and madmen misbehave in Bosnia.

The culprit, Dusko Vuckovic, alias Repic, has the looks of an archetypal bad guy. In a photograph published in *Der Spiegel* in 1992 he was overweight, and wore his long blond hair loose under a khaki cap. Now, in the Sabac prison where he's been held since his arrest in November 1993, the only difference is that he wears a ponytail. Dusko, who turned 31 in March, is a heavy drinker, and I mean "heavy drinker" — even by the standards of the Serb voluntary units he was part of. A former metal worker, his war career began in the autumn of 1991 at the Croat-Serb war front in Baranja. At the time, he and his older brother Vojin, a.k.a. Zuko, made a three-month stint as members of the Serb Radical Party, whose leader, Vojislav Seselj, is currently serving a jail sentence for spitting at a fellow parliamentarian.

On April 7, 1992, i.e., one day after the war in Bosnia started — and this is certainly no coincidence — both Vuckovic brothers were in the Bosnian town of Zvornik, to "help the Serb people defend their territory" as the criminal charge puts it. They formed a voluntary organization, later known as Zuta Osa, which means Yellow Wasp and is the name of a quite good plum brandy. Vojin became the commander; Dusko, a member. The *spécialité de la maison* of Zuta Osa attacked the town of Divic near Zvornik (100 percent Muslim) and rounded up the civilians in several places, among them Dom Kulture — the House of Culture, of all places — in Celopek. According to the charge against Dusko, at the end of June 1992, while interrogating an unnamed Muslim in the Dom Kulture, he cut off the Muslim's ear; on June 27 or 28 he shot dead sixteen people and wounded twenty others; the

next month, in another village called Radalj, he raped a Muslim woman and robbed her of 1,000 German marks.

I'm not a lawyer, but the charges against Dusko (the war crimes charges against his brother have been dropped) are clearly very weak. The date is imprecise, and no victims of the shooting are named (whether dead or wounded). There seem to be no witnesses or at least no one said they saw the killings. No search of bodies was done (Celopek is now in Serb-occupied Bosnia, i.e., abroad), and the exhibits do not include anything about the Zuta Osa, but plenty about the alleged psychiatric condition of Dusko. Jovan Dulovic, a journalist from the Belgrade opposition weekly *Vreme* received a letter from Vienna after he published a story about the upcoming trial. The correspondent, Hamo Tahic, said he was a survivor of the Dom Kulture shooting, gave verifiable details and named twenty-eight people who were killed. Dulovic published excerpts from that letter but received no inquiries from the prosecutor, Branko Njegovan.



You would think the defense would clean up in such a trial, but then, you probably haven't come across many Serbian lawyers. Dusko's attorneys, Dragoljub Djordjevic and Zivojin Stefanovic, rent two low-ceiling rooms in a seedy Belgrade hotel for their office. When I arrived in the afternoon the place was blue with cigarette smoke, a Black Label Whiskey was opened and the dozen men there all seemed to know each other. Stefanovic, a tall man resembling Eduard Shevardnadze, presented himself with the diminutive name Ziko and asked me to take a seat. I felt somewhat uneasy because Serbs in general do not seem to like foreigners, because I said I was a NEW REPUBLIC writer (i.e., from a country that just a week before had lifted the arms embargo on the Bosnians) and because these were, after all, lawyers for a war criminal. After half an hour of uneasy waiting for Djordjevic, I left, then returned at 10:00 to find the bottle closer to the bottom and behind the desk a rather handsome 400-pound man with a boyish face.

slightly reminding me of Orson Welles in *The Third Man*.

"Our client is a psychopath, but he's not insane," declared Djordjevic, who asked me to call him Dragi (meaning "Darling"). Since his English was even worse than my Serbian, I asked him to repeat the sentence in Serbian. Yes, he meant that Dusko was perfectly sane. Dragi didn't want to speak about the line of defense but expected that because of the rape accusation the trial would be declared in camera. This would suit the Serb regime: news of the trial happening would be out, but no embarrassing details would be revealed.

"Don't think we identify ourselves with him," said Dragi, letting me a little further into his confidence. After I helped him finish the bottle of whiskey, he told me some fifty people connected with the Serb Radical Party were captured along with the Vuckovic brothers, but that only Dusko had been detained "just in case" he was needed for a fake trial to draw attention away from the real one in The Hague. Of course Dusko understood

nothing of the political fights between Milosevic's and Seselj's parties or the international dimension of his case. Dulovic, the *Vreme* journalist, said that "Dusko is convinced Serbia has betrayed him and that he will be tried by an unrelenting court of the state whose ethnic cleansing plans he consistently and efficiently implemented. Vuckovic is understandably confused." But he is insane.

The defense lawyers Dragi and Ziko have begun to have more qualms. "Imagine how Serbia will look to the outside world if we prosecute only one war criminal and even he turns out to be crazy," Dragi said the next day as we were driving together with Dulovic to Sabac. We were all nursing hangovers, but the atmosphere in the car was extremely merry and Beatles tapes were making us all hum and sing. "Can you imagine guys, here we are about to meet a war criminal and we're listening to The Beatles," said Dragi, turning to Dulovic and myself in the back seat. We all had an easy laugh.

When we arrived at the courthouse, Dragi and Ziko went to see Dusko, and Dulovic and I chatted with the judge, Vladimir Banjac. The judge said he was absolutely not impressed by handling the case of the first war criminal ("a job, is a job"), that he sleeps well at night and that he sees no reason to question the integrity or sincerity of the charges ("I will work with what I have"). He also said an American journalist asked him whether he was receiving any pressure from Belgrade and that he of course answered that he didn't. When I asked him to admit that he was under pressure to an American journalist, he asked me what nationality I was.

On the way back, as we were driving through the rather quaint Serb villages, I saw in them the calm of the as-yet-uncleansed: they looked like what Celopek, Divic and Radalj must have all looked like before this war. I also had a distinct impression that Dragi and Ziko knew perfectly well that nothing in this trial's outcome depended on their performance. The game was being played fifty-five miles east of Sabac, or perhaps somewhere between the Court in The Hague, the U.N. headquarters and the White House.

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Gingrich argued that conservatives adopt space exploration and Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, the so-called Stars Wars program, as causes for tactical political gain. "Young people like space," he said.

The Washington Post, 1985

The Strategic Defense Initiative is back. It's right there in the Republicans' Contract with America — or, at least, in the exegesis. The National Security Restoration Act, one of ten bills the contract would bring to a vote by spring, demands "deployment at the earliest possible date" of an anti-ballistic missile defense. The Republicans haven't said whether that means a space-based defense or a land-based defense. Either way it means trashing the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, upping Pentagon spending by several billion a year for research and upping it by more when deployment starts. Why aren't you excited?

A surprisingly large number of people are. The new SDI comes with a new post-cold war rationale that has attracted not just Republicans, but some centrist Democrats. Indeed, research for a land-based SDI has stayed alive — if barely, and under another name — during the Clinton administration. Accelerated research and early deployment are thus a real political possibility, even if space-based weapons are a long shot. But before we make that leap, could somebody explain why the post-cold war rationale deserves anything less than the derision that finally overwhelmed the cold war rationale?

The cold war derision had two pillars. First, there were firm doubts about technical feasibility. Nothing has since happened to undermine them. The Pentagon's initial claim of a 96 percent success rate for the Patriot Missile against Iraqi Scuds turned out to be fantasy.

Second, we realized that plain old deterrence worked just fine as a missile defense; so long as Leonid Brezhnev could count on it for tat; he wouldn't attack. If anything, indeed, a missile defense could weaken the perverse logic behind deterrence by making mutually assured destruction less assured; the "protected" nation might feel too nervous and the unprotected nation too nervous.

Now, all of a sudden, we're told that deterrence won't work. Why? Because now we face not coolly rational, game-theoretical Soviets, but a different class of enemy: "rogue states" — Saddam Hussein's Iraq, Kim Jong Il's North Korea, Muammar Qaddafi's Libya. How does one qualify as a "rogue state"? So

far as I can tell, it helps if your leader (a) doesn't have white skin, (b) dislikes the United States and (c) does not behave in genteel fashion (often failing, for example, to wear a necktie during affairs of state). The less polite term for "rogue state," and its real meaning, is "crazy state." But there is zero evidence that any of these leaders is "crazy" in the relevant sense: suicidal. Quite the contrary. Ronald Reagan gave Qaddafi the litmus test for sanity and he passed: we bombed his house, and he modified his behavior. Hussein has shown repeatedly that, once he knows where the brink is, he doesn't step over it. Bear in mind that a nuclear attack on the United States would be more suicidal for these men than it would have been for the Soviets. Brezhnev might conceivably have weathered a firestorm and emerged from his bunker to inherit a world destroyed. If Saddam Hussein tried that, he would be squashed like a bug upon emerging. And he knows it.

Besides, if any "crazy" leader does want to blow up an American city, there are

Robert Wright

Crazy State



increasingly tied to global stability. The Republicans' post-election rhetoric, in contrast, fixates on keeping U.S. troops out of peacekeeping roles, keeping U.S. dollars from supporting other peacekeepers and stifling the foreign aid that helps stabilize places like Russia and the Middle East.

Also, of course, the Republicans don't favor one-worldish projects like... well, like continued adherence to the 1972 ABM Treaty. And violating that treaty (which, alas, even the Clinton administration's battlefield missile-defense research program threatens to do) is itself a dangerous retreat from internationalism. What's scarier than an Indian-Pakistani border flanked by nuclear arsenals? An Indian-Pakistani border flanked by destabilizing IBMs as well. We might yet be able to head that prospect off, but not once we've built our own shell.

The United States is now uniquely positioned to lead the world in avoiding two bad things: a global race to build destabilizing missile defense systems, and a global race to carry destabilizing weapons into space — not just anti-missile weapons, but anti-satellite weapons. The Republicans are now on record as wanting to start the first of these races, and they are clearly inclined to start the second. It's time for President Clinton to crawl out of his bomb shelter, survey the wreckage and start fighting.

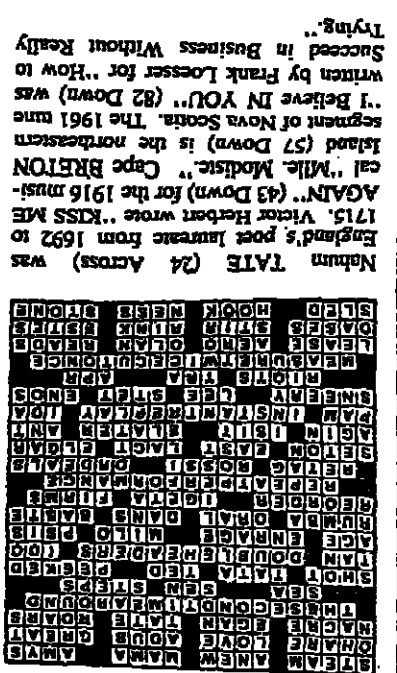
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"accidental launch" is to stay on good terms with Brazil.

Of course, however slight the chances of nuclear attack, and however real the chances that a missile defense would fail to repel it, a little insurance would be appealing if it were cheap enough. First of all, it isn't cheap (\$60 billion assuming meager cost overruns). Moreover, "insurance" conduces to solipsism; if we feel (however falsely) safe inside our little shell, waning support for internationalism will wane even faster.

I'm not saying the new SDI enthusiasm is driven by nascent Republican isolationism. But the enthusiasm accommodates and nourishes the parties isolationist strain. In the Republican summary of the Security Restoration Act, only one goal gets more prominent billing than SDI: "To insure that U.S. troops are only deployed to support missions in the U.S.'s national security interests."

We all care about "national security interests." But some of us think that national security (in various senses) is



The focus is money in buying a camera

ON CAMERA
DAVID BRAUNER

HOW many times have I seen people looking into a camera shop window and wondering at the array? Buying a new or used camera need not be the daunting experience one imagines.

For some practical advice, "On Camera" spoke to Shmulik Schwartz of Photo Schwartz.

Schwartz suggests that the prospective buyer first seek out a helpful, reputable dealer. Such shops are known to honor a minimum one-year guarantee (and sometimes two) on new cameras, and back sales with service and advice.

He recommends buying known brands, although off-brands will be cheaper and may be as good. He advises checking the box in the shop to see that all the accessories — battery, strap, case, and perhaps film — are included.

Another important consideration is the batteries. Cameras driven by regular AA batteries are cheaper to run than the more expensive models driven by lithium cells.

In Israel, battery prices are high because of the added 125% customs and tax. Therefore, an \$8 lithium cell in the US costs around NIS 60 in Israel.

On the other hand, there are no customs duties on cameras, which means Israeli prices are comparable to Europe. And the so-called "worldwide" guarantees for cam-



Window-shoppers examine an impressive array of cameras (above); Shmulik Schwartz of Photo Schwartz, established 40 years ago in Jerusalem. (David Brauner)

eras purchased abroad will not be honored in Israel, according to Schwartz.

Family snapshot cameras fall into three broad categories: fixed focus at NIS 100 to NIS 200, auto-focus at NIS 200 to NIS 1,000 and auto-focus zoom at NIS 1,000 to NIS 2,000. Worthwhile features to ask about are:

- auto-off, which turns off the camera if it is not used for 3-4

minutes, thus saving expensive battery power;

- a minimum focusing distance of less than a meter, which is desirable for portraits and photographing smaller objects;

- flash with red-eye reduction; flash which can be turned off, for example, in difficult light and shade conditions, in museums where flash photography is forbidden and for night photography;

- A dating facility, which adds about 10% to the cost, but is important to many family and holiday photographers.

In choosing a new camera, user-friendliness, durability and picture quality are worthwhile functions at a higher price. And the smaller the camera, the more expensive; however, pocketability can be an important consideration.

For the serious amateur and

professional photographer on a budget, a solid secondhand camera is often more camera for less money. In its day a used SLR could well have been top of the line, and can still admirably serve its new owner, provided it's in good working order.

Schwartz stresses buying only SLRs with full manual override in addition to whatever automation a particular model may offer. Shops

warranty used cameras from three to six months. In that period one is advised to use the camera often so that if something breaks down, it does so sooner rather than later.

Prices for older, manual focus models with a standard lens range between NIS 500 and NIS 1,000; for a newer, auto-focus/zoom lens SLR one can pay NIS 2,300-NIS 3,500.

Used cameras undergo a

"countertop" inspection by the shop's staff. The customer also can request to have a technician check a camera before purchase, but he will bear the expense. The following is a useful checklist of details to examine when buying a used camera:

- General condition. Even if the camera is bashed and scratched, the inner workings can still be in good condition. Poor external condition generally means a lower price.
- Try out all main features: meter (see that the needle or light display responds to light); self-timer; battery check; depth of field preview; pop-up flash, etc.
- Focus and aperture rings should feel smooth, never tight.
- Shake the camera — nothing should rattle.
- Remove the lens and filter and look for scratches on the inner and outer elements. If there are deep scratches, do not buy.
- Note the condition of the mirror. It should be dust-free and unscratched.
- Listen to the sound of the camera at different speeds. At faster speeds there should sound one clear, single click.

Whether buying a new or used camera, buy the best you can afford, and most likely you won't be disappointed with the results.

Napoleon's defeat

KISHON'S KEYHOLE
EPHRAIM KISHON

THE sun rising over the field of battle found the Emperor bent over his maps in the palace living room, his faithful marshals standing behind him in reverent silence: the greatest military leader of all time was laying his strategy for the crucial confrontation with Europe's kings.

His months of exile from Elba had made no change in the Emperor's gallant men — only his hair had thinned slightly, and a few silver threads glistened at his temples. An occasional boom of distant cannon told of Blücher's Prussian troops marching on Waterloo...

The silken curtains fluttered in the morning breeze. The world held its breath.

"Napoleon, come and eat your breakfast!"

Bella, the Emperor's third wife, popped her head through the door. A handsome woman, her hair done up in a kerchief, a dust-cloth in her hand. She had married Napoleon on Elba, and people had congratulated him and said she'd make him an excellent Jewish wife.

"Nu, Napoleon," she said, "it'll get cold if you don't eat it now. Your friends here won't run away." She turned to the marshals with a sigh. "Same thing every time," she complained. "I ask him — does he want to eat or doesn't he. I just want he should tell me: yes or no. So I cook and all — and then when it's ready monsieur has got something else to do and I can't wait with my food. And I can't just keep warming it up, it spoils it. And now my maid's left me and I'm stuck with the kid and all. Napoleon, come and eat already."

"A second," muttered the great general, marking a change in the battle formation on his map. "Just a second."

The roar of the cannon grew louder beyond the hills. Marshal Ney gazed with a worried frown: Wellington's artillery was getting the range...

"I'm out on my feet," Bella pointed out. "You drop your things all over the place, and all I got to do all day is tidy up after you. And take that hand out of your coat! I keep telling you it makes it bag, and the stuff doesn't iron good. My husband," she turned to the marshals again, "has got some habits. I tell you — I'm surprised his other wives stood it. Napoleon! Breakfast!"

"Right away," said the Emper-

or, and looked round at the tense faces of his officers, "Blücher and Wellington will try to join forces," he explained, "and we've got to prevent that at all costs — we must drive a wedge between them."

"It's getting cold!"

"We shall attack in one-hour's time!"

Now General Cambrón's heavy tread was heard outside, bounding up the marble steps two at a time...

"No, no!" cried Bella, stopping him at the door. "First take those boots off. I don't want mud all over my nice clean floors!"

General Cambrón took his boots off and remained in his stockings feet like all the marshals in the room.

"I wouldn't mind if I still had my maid," Bella explained. "But she up and left me yesterday. I warned Nappy that I didn't like the looks of her but he didn't listen, because to him anything's more important than what happens in his own home. So now I'm without a maid, and tomorrow is Friday already, and I've no time to even look for a new one because of this battle of yours. So if any of you marshals hears of a nice modest girl who can do the cooking and look after the kid, let me know, but don't send me a Corsican because they jabber all day."

"Very well, Your Imperial Highness" — General Cambrón saluted, and handed the Emperor an urgent message.

Napoleon read it and blanched. "Gentlemen," he whispered, "Fouchet has gone over to the enemy. Fouchet! What now?"

"Breakfast," suggested Bella. "It's getting cold on your plate."

She went off to warm it up again, and Napoleon began giving out his final orders.

"The fate of the world will be decided here!" — his finger swooped down on the map — "Now then, if this maid attacks from the east we shall regroup at this point and..."

"Napoleon!" came a voice from the other room. "How do you want your egg?"

"I don't care."

"Yes."

"Then say so."

The Man of Destiny pulled on

his boots, picked up his hat, and every line in his face bespoke determination to win this — the Battle of Nations.

"Gentlemen! For France!"

"For France!" thundered the marshals with drawn swords.

"For the Emperor!"

"Nappy" — Bella stuck her head through the door —

"The kid's calling for you."

"Your Highness," Marshal Murat whispered, "the enemy is at the gate!"

"Yes, but it's me who'll be stuck here all day with a child nudging for his daddy — not you," said Bella. "I'm sure nothing terrible will happen if Napoleon comes and gives his little boy a kiss before he goes to work."

"Where is he?"

"On the potty."

The Emperor rushed out. "It's that I've got no maid," Bella explained, "and all this palace to keep clean. You! How many times have I asked you to use an ashtray!"

Napoleon marched through the living room on his way out.

"What do I say if anyone asks for you?" said Bella.

"I'm at the Battle of Waterloo."

"When'll you be back?"

"Don't know."

"But I've got to say something if people ask, no? Will you be home for lunch?"

"If I can make it."

"What do you want I shall cook?"

"Whatever."

"Snuffed kishkeh?"

"Yes."

"Then say so."

The Emperor left.

"You haven't finished your breakfast!" Bella called after him from the window. "And remember: a maid! And don't be late."

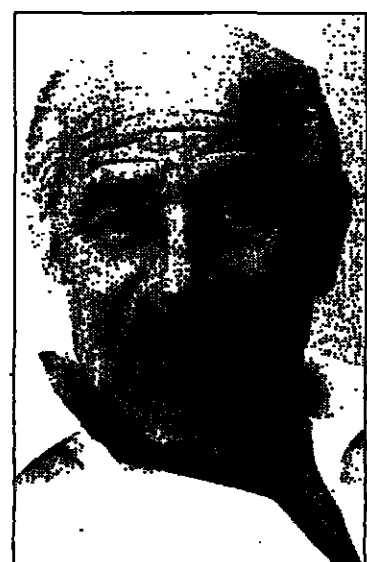
The Emperor's proud figure retreated along the narrow path leading to the fields of Waterloo. Bella took a rag and began cleaning up the mud from all over her nice clean floors — doing it herself because she had no maid.

The smell of gunpowder wafted in through the window, flashes of cannon fire lit up the trees. It was in those minutes that the armies of Blücher and Wellington joined forces, and the Battle of Waterloo was won by two men who had gone to war alone, and left their devoted wives very far behind indeed.

Translated by Miriam Arad

With luck, he got the pressing news

THERE AND THEN
SRAJA SHAPIRO



Ben-Porat: A journalist stumbles on much of his information by sheer chance.

IT was because Christian Pineau, France's then foreign minister, tripped on leaving a press conference at the Quai d'Orsay in 1956 that Yeshayahu Ben-Porat got the first of his innumerable scoops.

The Israeli journalist had just begun his 38-year career as a *Yediot Aharonot* reporter. Following the minister down the steps, Ben-Porat picked up Pineau's briefcase. Then the grateful politician told Ben-Porat something he had not hitherto disclosed: France had urged Britain and the US to supply arms to Israel.

Recording the event in his memoirs, *Et L'hazkir* ("Pea for Remembrance," published by Zmora-Bitan, 352 pp.), Ben-Porat muses that, while a journalist must try to be present at the scene of the action, he needs a little bit of luck to hit on the piece of news he can use.

He gives plenty of instances illustrating the fact that the journalist stumbles on much of his information by sheer chance.

One night in 1961, Ben-Porat was waiting outside the Matignon Palace where, in the presence of president de Gaulle, French prime minister Michel Debre was entertaining an Israeli delegation led by prime minister Ben-Gurion.

The journalist despaired that he would not get the story. But as the participants were leaving, Shimon Peres, then Israel's deputy defense minister, invited him into his car.

"I hesitated. I had my own car parked in a No Parking area," Ben-Porat recalls.

"Just as you wish," Peres said. Ben-Porat jumped in. During the ride, Peres disclosed that de Gaulle had spoken gloriously about Ben-Gurion, and called Israel France's "friend and ally."

It was front-page news the next morning, but the journalist's car was gone, and he spent the day looking all over Paris for it.

Two days before the Yom Kippur war broke out, Ben-Porat was interviewing the Austrian chancellor Bruno Kreisky. That morning, Kreisky said, he had spoken to an Egyptian diplomat who told him: "Israel has a war on its hands."

"I did not believe it, and did not include it in my story," Ben-Porat admits.

BEN-PORAT, or Weiner as he was originally named, was born in Vienna in 1928. Ten years later,

following the Nazi occupation, he was placed in a children's refugee camp (a 13th century convent converted by the Rothschilds) in France. He subsequently enrolled in a school for hotel staff in Nice before moving on to Switzerland. Luckily he was not yet 16 when questioned by the Swiss police. A 16-year-old friend in similar circumstances was delivered to France, where he was arrested by the Vichy authorities.

For two happy years, Ben-Porat studied at a school benefiting from Jewish patronage in Geneva. He then joined 400 Youth Aliya youngsters on the train to Barcelona, and the boat to Palestine.

On arriving in Palestine, he was directed to Ma'ayan Zvi, a kibbutz near Zichron Ya'acov, to acquire

some experience before joining Kibbutz Avuka in the Beit She'an valley.

If any warmth toward religion and tradition still lingered in his heart, Ben-Porat writes, it dissipated as the true proportions of the Holocaust became clear. He stopped fasting on Yom Kippur.

"Dedication to the movement, to socialism, to the labor settlement and the rebuilding of Eretz Yisrael took the place of faith and tradition," he writes.

He was sworn into the Hagana defense organization and took part in an operation rescuing "illegal" Jewish immigrants from a train transporting them from Haifa to Adit detention camp.

A few months later, however, the Hagana members dispatched to help bring ashore "illegals" at Givat Olga were intercepted by British police. Ben-Porat landed in Latrun detention camp. "A rest house it was not," he recalls.

But he improved his Hebrew through helping a fellow detainee, a member of the Lehi (*Lohamei Herut Yisrael*) underground movement, to read Kant in the original in exchange for lessons in spoken Hebrew.

A career in journalism was still a long way off. The General Meeting, the authority which regulated all matters, big and small, in kibbutz life, was reluctant to grant him two years' absence to study to be an elementary school teacher. When the authority finally agreed, it was on condition he finance his studies himself. This he did, by giving private lessons. To save money, he lived in a tent. He went on to become a tutor at the famous Ben-Shimon school.

On Saturday nights, he would sit on the stairs of the Tel Aviv Museum in Rothschild Boulevard to hear, from behind closed doors, its weekly concert of chamber music. Sometimes a friendly young actor would invite him for a cup of tea, at Kasit, the artists' cafe, where one could see such celebrities as the actress Hanna Rovina or the actor Aharon Meskin in person.

Many will recognize in Ben-Porat's story the kind of frustrations that often vex new immigrants. Determination and chance are the decisive factors. For Ben-Porat, success was the result of a readiness to take risks, and an affable personality, which made him many friends.

In the final analysis, a newcomer is "absorbed" when he makes friends with whom to share his ambitions. Ben-Porat's major ambition was to write. In time, encouraged by the friendship of mainly urban, intellectual bohemians, he became the editor of *Mevo'ot*, a literary weekly sponsored by Mapai.

When the French government offered him a small stipend to study comparative literature at the Sorbonne, he jumped at the chance to return to Paris, where he had served as an emissary for the Gordonia youth movement.

In Paris, he met Elie Wiesel, then a part-time correspondent for *Yediot Aharonot*. When Wiesel moved to the US, Ben-Porat took over. Soon enough, he became famous.

On one occasion, accompanying singer Shoshana Damari to a fashionable nightclub after her Paris debut, Ben-Porat was recognized by the waiter, who asked him: "Weren't we at school together in Nice?"

"I shuddered," Ben-Porat admits. For he would have become a waiter, had fate not cut his studies short.

X marks the spot: Siamese genes make their mark

HEADS 'N' TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

SIAMESE cats are a popular pet and their distinctive markings make them stand out. That's why a reader in North Tel Aviv has been so puzzled lately.

"I don't know why," she writes, "but over the past year we have suddenly been treated to the sight of a number of beautiful Siamese cats in the neighborhood. They appear to have no owners and are frequent visitors to the local garbage cans. Where could they have come from? Some were quite young when I first noticed them."

The characteristics that define a Siamese cat are almost all carried in recessive genes. Thus kittens that look Siamese don't have to

have pure Siamese parents. It's enough for each of the parents to be carriers of Siamese genes from one of their parents.

If these cats are bred, then some of the kittens will look like domestic short-hairs and some from the same litter will probably look like true Siamese. They will have the Siamese color, the mask, the blue eyes and sometimes even the small kink in the tail.

The one gene that seems to be dominant is the gene for the particular Siamese voice. Even if a

kitten with a single Siamese parent looks like a domestic short-hair, it often has that raucous Siamese yowl like which there is no other.

Another reader asks about the kink, small or large, that Siamese cats often have in their tails. This, too, is inherited and appears in many Siamese cats.

Legend says the cats got the kinked tail because they were once charged with guarding the King of Siam's treasures. The cats were very loyal and conscientious, and were afraid they might fall

asleep and thieves would steal the treasure. So they wrapped their tails around the handles of the treasure chest. From then on, the legend says, Siamese cats have had a kink in their tails.

Although this kink is common in Siamese cats, it is to be avoided by breeders of show-quality cats because it counts against the cat in the show ring. This is also true of a rounded rather than an angular face, although many people think the round face is far more attractive. Another bad trait for the show cat is crossed eyes. This is also fairly common, especially in tomcats, and is most noticeable when the cat is concentrating on something.

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Hawks stop Knicks' win streak

ATLANTA (AP) — Mookie Blaylock's 3-pointer broke a tie with 39 seconds remaining as the Atlanta Hawks snapped the New York Knicks' three-game winning streak with an 89-85 victory on Friday night.

Blaylock's basket gave the Hawks an 86-83 lead, and Grant Long stretched it to 88-83 on two free throws with just under 25 seconds remaining.

Blaylock led the Hawks with 17 points, Steve Smith had 16, all in the first half, and Long added 15.

The greening of Rodman

Dennis Rodman — this time with green hair — returned to the San Antonio Spurs on Friday.

Afterward, Rodman said little about his clashes with the team management. But he did explain his new hair color. "Christmas green," he called it.

On Wednesday, Rodman was suspended without pay for the second time this season because he failed to show up after a paid leave of absence ended.

Patrick Ewing and Charles Smith each scored 20 for the Knicks. Clippers 109, Lakers 84.

After it took them 17 games to get their first victory, and even that win — against the struggling Milwaukee Bucks — required a desperation jumper by Pook Richardson in overtime, the Clippers managed to ambush the Lakers.

"We have a lot more confidence now," said Lou Piniella, who had 19 points and 15 rebounds. "We feel like we can beat any team in the league, and we felt that way before we even won a game."

Even if it was just across town, the Clippers got their first road victory since last April 5 and put together consecutive victories for the first time since March 8 and 15.

The Clippers started fast, jumping out to a 40-18 lead and holding the Lakers to their lowest first-half total of the season. Malik Sealy, who finished with 25 points, scored 17 in the first half as the Clippers built a 63-35 halftime advantage.

A 3-pointer by Cedric Ceballos, who led the Lakers with 23 points, brought the Lakers to 84-73 with 10:12 remaining, but they never got closer.

"We didn't take them lightly. They just beat us by finding open guys and putting the ball in the basket," Ceballos said. "They shot the ball great. We couldn't believe they were making some of those shots."

Vlade Divac added 21 points and a season-high 17 rebounds for the Lakers, while Pook Richardson had 20 points and 10 assists for the Clippers.

Magic 110, Heat 96. Visiting Orlando routed Miami for the second time this season, building a 20-point lead in nine minutes.

Shaquille O'Neal led the Magic with



STAR-SPANGLED TANGLED — Spurs' David Robinson hangs on to the ball as Utah's Antoine Carr (top) and John Crotty join in the melee. (AP)

25 points. Anternee Hardaway added 24 points, including five 3-pointers. Billy Owens had a season-high 21 points for Miami.

Orlando hit 14 of its first 18 shots to build a lead of 30-10. Hardaway hit back-to-back 3-pointers during the run. Miami, now 0-9 when trailing after one quarter, never mounted a comeback.

Cavaliers 96, Celtics 89. John Williams scored a season-high 20 points to lead Cleveland.

The visiting Cavaliers snapped a three-game losing streak and won their third straight game in the Boston Garden.

Tyronne Hill and Chris Mills each scored four points in a 10-0 Cavalier run that put Cleveland on top 86-70 with 4:49 left in the game, and the Celtics never caught up.

Bobby Phillips had 16 points, Hill 14 and Mark Price 13 points, along with a

season-high 13 assists. Dominique Wilkins led Boston with 27 points, 14 in the first quarter.

Pacers 94, 76ers 88. Derrick McKey scored 15 points and Dale Davis had 14 points and a season-high 18 rebounds as Indiana won its fourth straight.

LaSalle Thompson had 13 points and Reggie Miller scored 12 for the visiting Pacers, who played without Rik Smits and Antonio Davis, both sidelined with injuries.

Jeff Malone had 17 points for Philadelphia, giving him a career total of 17,015 points. Malone became the 47th NBA player to go over 17,000 points.

Bulls 117, Pistons 96. BJ Armstrong scored a season-high 22 points as Chicago routed Detroit, who were without two leading scorers.

Joe Dumars missed the game with bronchitis, while Grant Hill had the flu and a sore left foot. Chicago, which never trailed, led 58-46 at the half and quickly boosted that advantage to 18 points when the visiting Bulls started the third quarter with an 8-2 run.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS: Cleveland 96, Boston 89. Indiana 94, Philadelphia 88. Orlando 110, Miami 96. Atlanta 89, New York 85. Chicago 117, Detroit 96. Portland 116, Golden State 107. LA Clippers 109, LA Lakers 84.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS: Phoenix 133, New Jersey 106. Houston 101, Charlotte 95. Washington 124, Dallas 121 (OT). Utah 117, San Antonio 114 (OT).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

W L Pct GB

Orlando 14 3 .824 .0

New York 10 7 .588 3.5

Boston 8 9 .467 4.5

Washington 7 10 .412 5.5

Philadelphia 7 10 .412 5.5

New Jersey 7 10 .412 5.5

Miami 4 11 .267 8.5

Central Division

W L Pct GB

Indiana 11 5 .688 .0

Cleveland 10 6 .625 1.0

Charlotte 9 7 .562 2.0

Chicago 8 8 .500 3.0

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Scottie Pippen had 19 for Chicago, and Bill Wennington added 16 points and nine rebounds off the bench. Lindsey Hunter and Oliver Miller led the Pistons with 18 points apiece, but injuries prevented both from finished the game.

Blazers 116, Warriors 107. Clifford Robinson scored 28 points and Clyde Drexler added 26 as Portland defeated Golden State, which lost its sixth straight on the road.

Portland guard Rod Strickland, out with a wrist fracture since November 15, returned and had 15 points, 13 assists and four rebounds.

Tim Hardaway led the Warriors with 21 points and David Wood added 14. Portland led 96-84 with 8:36 to play on Robinson's third 3-pointer of the game. Rookie Clifford Rozier, in his first start, pulled the Warriors to 108-102 on a basket with 2:21 remaining, but Portland outscored them 8-5 in the final two minutes.

But the producers deserve a red card for allowing the cameras to linger over a player writhing in agony after suffering a leg injury. Not only was it a brazen invasion of privacy, but after about two seconds, it was plain boring.

Meanwhile, Yisraeli's patter ranged from insipid to plain ridiculous. "Sad," he said as we watched the player twisting in pain. "It hurts everyone."

Yisraeli might want to take a lesson from Simi Rigeur, no shrinking violet himself.

Rigeur and sidekick Eran Giladi did a fine job with the recent Sonics-Rockets game on Sports Channel.

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Canseco dealt to Red Sox

NEW YORK (AP) — Jose Canseco was traded to the Boston Red Sox from the Texas Rangers on Friday for outfielder Otis Nixon and a minor league third baseman.

Canseco, 30, hit 31 home runs with 90 RBIs in 111 games of the strike-shortened season. The former AL MVP and Rookie of the Year batted .282 and stole 15 bases.

The deal reunites Canseco with manager Kevin Kennedy, who was fired by Texas on October 12.

The Red Sox have been searching for a right-handed power hitter to take advantage of Fenway Park's left-field wall. Canseco has one year left on his contract, calling for \$5.1 million.

The Rangers wanted a speedy leadoff hitter, preferably someone who add outfield defense. Nixon, 36 next month, stole 42 bases and was on pace to break Boston's record of 54 steals set by Tommy Harper.

There was speculation that the Rangers wanted a pitcher along with Nixon. Canseco was traded by Oakland to Texas in August 31, 1992, for Ruben Sierra, Bobby Witt and Jeff Russell.

Johnson limited to tax probe. Howard Johnson, a former New York Met, has been

linked to the probe that has threatened to send outfielder Danny Strawberry to prison.

The New York Daily News reported Friday that Johnson has also been a target of the US attorney's probe of the multi-million-dollar sports memorabilia business.

On Thursday, an indictment was unsealed charging Strawberry, Johnson's former teammate, with failing to report about \$500,000 from autograph signings. Strawberry could get up to five years in prison if found guilty on all charges.

The Daily News said the federal probe also has focused on former New York Yankee players, who were not identified, as well as former Mets Dwight Gooden, Gary Carter and Lenny Dykstra.

Fans will pay to see anyone. Just over half of America's baseball fans are so fed up with both sides in the players' strike that they'll pay to see anyone else play.

Fifty-one percent of fans say they would attend the same number of games next season even if replacement players are used, according to a national poll by The AP.

Some 63% of fans say they'd watch just as many games on television next year if owners replace striking players, the survey found.

The percentage of Americans identifying themselves as baseball fans fell to 26% from 33% in July, according to the survey. While 33% of Americans age 65 and older identified themselves as fans now, just 22% of the population aged 18-34 consider themselves to be fans.

Channel 5 brings hoops alive

SPORTSWATCH

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Then, during a follow-up shot of fans booing the opposing team's coach they thought responsible for their hero's injury, Yisraeli added: "But how is Giora (Spiegel) guilty? This is the less pleasant side of soccer. But there's no good without bad." Later, as the player was taken off on a stretcher, Yisraeli offered: "Ayyyyyyyyy," perhaps describing the pain he was putting us through.

An interview with young Betar Tel Aviv star Nir Avirgil's parents was also unnecessary, particularly the heart-rending story of how Momma Avirgil waited nervously for her boy to return from The Big City each day when he went off to train in Tel Aviv at age 12.

Hamesh al Ha'esh scored when it got down to tchilis: soccer action, some of it in slow motion, or from a variety of neat camera angles. That's what soccer fans really want, not Yisraeli's yammering. More goals, less gab, Sports Channel.

Yisraeli might want to take a lesson from Simi Rigeur, no shrinking violet himself.

Rigeur and sidekick Eran Giladi did a fine job with the recent Sonics-Rockets game on Sports Channel.

United, one point back, and 3rd-place Newcastle also record wins

Key Representative Rates		
	Change	
US dollar ...NIS 3.0230	+0.27%	
Sterling ...NIS 4.7091	-0.28%	
Mark ...NIS 1.9108	-0.40%	

INT'L STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	3091.11	+5.88
DJ Transport	1380.67	+3.49
DJ US Ind	1732.54	+0.37
DJ Comp	1225.88	+1.86
NYSE Index	2977.3	+0.77
NYSE Transp	1132.7	+0.77
NYSE Ind	244.17	+0.37
S&P 500	244.17	+0.37
S&P 500 Ind	448.97	+1.52
AMEX Comp	420.68	+1.15

NYSE stocks

Share	Advances	Declines
Advances	477	538
Volume (in 1000s)	151,975	
Volume (in 1000s)	13,895	

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	2977.3	+0.77
Tokyo Nikkei	18974.3	+110.75
Singapore	1132.7	+0.77
Hong Kong Hang Seng	7780.67	+110.75
India	88.81	+1.15

Israeli stocks in NY

	Last	Change
NYSE / AMEX		
Am Is Pcp	2.65	+0.5
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Dow up slightly FTSE falls 36 points

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks closed on a mixed note Friday, as the Dow Jones industrial average posted a modest gain after trading lower for most of the session.

The Dow dropped as much as 28 points in the first hour, briefly recovering its losses before midday. The blue-chip gauge retreated a second time and spent the afternoon posting modest losses, until computer-aided buy programs pushed it barely into positive territory in the last 30 minutes of trading.

Several waves of program trading on both the buy and sell side for a volatile session, analysts said. Broad-market indexes ended mixed. Big Board volume was light.

The 30-year bond was unchanged and yielding 7.86 percent, giving up earlier gains of about 1-4 point.

Transportation stocks were lower for the second consecutive session Friday amid weakness in railroad issues. Morgan Stanley downgraded downgraded six railroad companies to "hold" from "buy," noting they have doubled in price since 1991.

Technology stocks were mixed after taking big hits earlier this week. Intel fell in heavy Nasdaq trading. Intel said it will build a manufacturing facility in Oregon at a cost of about \$565 million.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 5.38 to 3,091.11. Declining issues outnumbered advances by about 13 to 9 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 936 up, 1,307 down and 679 unchanged.

The NYSE's composite index rose 0.37 to 344.17. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 1.52 to 448.97. The Nasdaq composite index fell 2.55 to 716.57.

At the American Stock Exchange, the market value index fell 2.15 to 420.66.

The dollar fell moderately against the yen, but still floated above the 100-yen level. Traders said large Japanese exporters were in the market selling dollars and that the currency's strength may have been tempered by concerns about the Orange County, California, bankruptcy filing.

In late New York trading, the dollar was quoted at 100.11 Japanese yen, down from 100.49 late Thursday.

In London, the dollar closed at 100.20, down from 100.40.

The dollar also was changing hands in New York at 1.5771 German marks, up from 1.5767. In London, the dollar closed at 1.5780 marks, up from 1.5770.

Other late dollar rates in New York, compared with late Thursday: 1.3370 Swiss francs, up from 1.3360; 5.4160 French francs, up from 5.4115; 1,630 Italian lire, up from 1,627; and 1.3838 Canadian dollars, up from 1.3818.

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Other late dollar rates in New York, compared with late Thursday

Saguy said ready to quit IDF Intelligence Branch

IDF Intelligence Branch head Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy will soon notify Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak and Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of his decision to retire soon from active service, following his failure to secure the deputy CGS job, senior army sources said.

The sources did not confirm or deny that Saguy is being considered to head a state agency subordinate to the Prime Minister's Office.

Following the decision last month to appoint Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i the new Deputy Chief

ALON PINKAS

of General Staff, a post Saguy wanted and was considered for, he was asked by Rabin to remain as head of the Intelligence Branch until the summer of 1995.

Saguy apparently agreed, but according to the army sources he decided to retire earlier than planned.

However, another senior army source said that those reporting Saguy's imminent retirement are motivated by internal General Staff politics.

["Chief of General Staff designee] Shahak wants to organize his

own general staff, in which Saguy has no place," the army source said.

"Shahak lobbied and secured the appointment for Vilna'i, and now he wants Saguy out."

The leading candidate to succeed Saguy is Planning Branch Head Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, but air force Maj.-Gen. Giora Rom, currently the IDF Defense Attache in the US, has also been mentioned.

If Saguy retires, he will follow Coordinator of Activities in the Territories, Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild, who announced his retirement last week.

Panel proposes guidelines for investigating ministers

Jerusalem Post Staff

NO criminal investigation will be launched against ministers without the approval of the attorney-general, according to a bill approved Friday by the ministerial committee for legislation, headed by Justice Minister David Liba'i.

The bill, which sets guidelines for the suspension and trial of ministers and deputy ministers, also states that an indictment will not be filed against a minister except by the attorney-general.

The bill also states that the prime minister must suspend a minister when a request is filed with the Knesset to remove his parliamentary immunity, on allegations the attorney-general believes are serious.

The bill was drawn up by the Justice Ministry. Liba'i explained that it would fill voids in current law that were exposed when for-

mer interior minister Aryeh Deri chose to refuse to cooperate with police investigators, and when charges were later filed against him. The law currently provides no clear guidelines on how to deal with such issues.

Liba'i added that the bill is intended to provide for the future, and will not have any effect on legal action against former ministers and deputy ministers, including Deri.

Based on the attorney-general's opinion, the prime minister could suspend a minister who does not answer questions in a criminal investigation against him for a crime committed in his capacity as a public servant or other serious crime. The prime minister can reinstate the minister if there no longer is a

reason for the suspension, the guidelines state.

They also state that the prime minister can suspend a minister being investigated regarding his performance in office even if a request for removal of his immunity has not yet been filed, if the attorney-general believes that his continuing in the post could interfere with the investigation.

In such a case, the prime minister could remove the minister from his post, while allowing him to continue as a minister without portfolio. During his suspension period, the minister would no longer be able to perform the functions of his office.

Suspended ministers would have a week from the time they are informed of their suspension to petition the High Court of Justice against its implementation.



Ten people were lightly injured on Friday when an Egged bus was hit from behind by another bus near the entrance to Jerusalem, forcing the closure of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Highway. (Yossi Cohen/Scoop 80)

Hospital directors: New law could hurt health care

HOSPITAL directors expressed concern on Friday that the health system would deteriorate when the National Health Insurance Law takes effect next month.

At an emergency meeting in Zichron Ya'acov, the directors said the orders to cut budgets, medical treatment and hospitalization costs would harm the level of medicine here.

Dr. Yonatan Halevi, director of Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, said the plan to cut hospitalization costs was a violation of the doctors' professional integrity.

Prof. Ya'acov Hart, director of Sharon Hospital, said doctors "were worried about the health system moving away from research and instruction and that there are not enough funds for re-

search and development. It is clear to us that the level of medicine in Israel will drop," he said.

Rambam Hospital director Moshe Revah warned against the effects of reducing the per diem hospitalization rates.

"Patients are hospitalized on cots in the hallways. Is there someone who thinks we are needlessly hospitalizing people?" he asked.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said the directors' comments were "irresponsible and sensationalizing [the issues]."

The hospitals "had expectations that hospitals would become profitable and competitive... But the law limits expenditures on health. We have to realize there is a limit to health expenditures, like in every other field." (Jim)

New Jersey opens office in Ra'anana

TRENTON (AP) — The New Jersey Israel Commission announced Friday the opening of an office in Ra'anana, to improve trade, educational and cultural exchanges.

"I'm very pleased that we are opening this new office," said Gov. Christie Whitman in a prepared release.

"This will go a long way toward helping New Jersey and Israel take advantage of the opportunities that are afforded by cooperative efforts."

New Jersey, in establishing an office in Israel, is taking a major step toward improving the state's trade relations with Israel, said Alan Steinberg, assistant commis-

sioner of Commerce and Economic Development.

"This office will give us the presence we need," Steinberg said.

The New Jersey Israel Commission and the New Jersey Division of International Trade, both of which are part of the Commerce Department, are overseeing the new office, which opened on December 1.

"This office will create a permanent presence that will help New Jersey to implement its comprehensive trade strategy not only with respect to Israel, but throughout the entire Middle East," said Carlos Kearns, director of International Trade.

Housing Ministry stops working with Sheves

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Housing Ministry has stopped cooperating with Prime Minister's Office Director-General Shimon Sheves and his team set up to promote construction.

Ministry sources said over the weekend that top ministry officials do not participate in tours taken by Sheves and his team. Last week, they said, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer canceled visits to sites Sheves was also scheduled to visit.

"Sheves reportedly gave Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a 'report card' on certain ministers recently that gave bad grades to Ben-Eliezer and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat."

Ben-Eliezer, who presented his ministry's plans for

next year at a press conference over the weekend, refused to comment on this issue.

Ben-Eliezer's goals include the marketing of at least 50,000 housing units, consisting mainly of small apartments and housing projects for young couples, lower-income groups and the homeless; completing the evacuation of the caravan sites and finding housing solutions for their residents; increasing resources for small towns and poor neighborhoods; increasing funding for the Arab, Beduin and Druse sectors; and completing the construction of roads.

He said housing prices have started to moderate, especially in the central region.

Jordan said supportive of Eilat-Akaba airport

HAJIM SHAPIRO

JORDAN has approved a plan to transform the Akaba airport into a binational facility, serving both Akaba and Eilat, the Jordanian daily *Al-Majed* has reported, citing Transport Ministry sources.

But Israel, at least officially, is still planning to build an international airport for Eilat at Ein Evrona.

At present, Eilat has a small airport, used mainly by internal flights, while the international

charters use a temporary terminal at the Uvda airport, about 60 km. away. The Jordanian airport is about four kilometers north of Akaba, close to the border.

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar visited the airfield last week to see the Jordanian site, according to his spokesman Eli Danon.

To make the airfield suitable for both countries, Danon said, the

Jordanians would add another landing strip. Israel, he added, would build its own terminal on their side of the border.

However, Danon said, the prior plan, according to which Israel is to build an airport at Ein Evrona, was approved by the government and still stands.

At the same time, he added, the ministry looks very favorably on the plan to have a joint airport with Jordan.

Shohat: We can't meet all demands of Druse

THE government will not be able to fulfill all the demands of the Druse and Circassian local council heads, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Friday, saying they had already received sharp increases in funding in recent years.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, before leaving for Oslo, had met with Shohat, Police Minister Moshe Shahal, Labor MK Sallah Tarif, and coalition chairman Eli Dayan, asking them to try to solve the crisis, in recognition of the two groups' contribution to the defense of the state. Last night Police Minister Moshe Shahal met with Druse representatives.

Speaking to the Economics Club in Rishon LeZion, Shohat said that while the Druse had received NIS 55 million for development in 1992, in jumped to NIS 95m. in 1993, and they were to get NIS 104m. in 1995.

But their demand for NIS 250m. immediately was an unfair demand to make of the government, and the government would not be able to fulfill it. "I hope that they will extricate themselves from this situation, because

I also believe that we owe the Druse a great deal."

Shohat said that he had asked the Druse and Circassian leaders to submit a detailed funding request, and, as a gesture of good will, had offered them an additional NIS 40m. immediately. They rejected the offer, Shohat said.

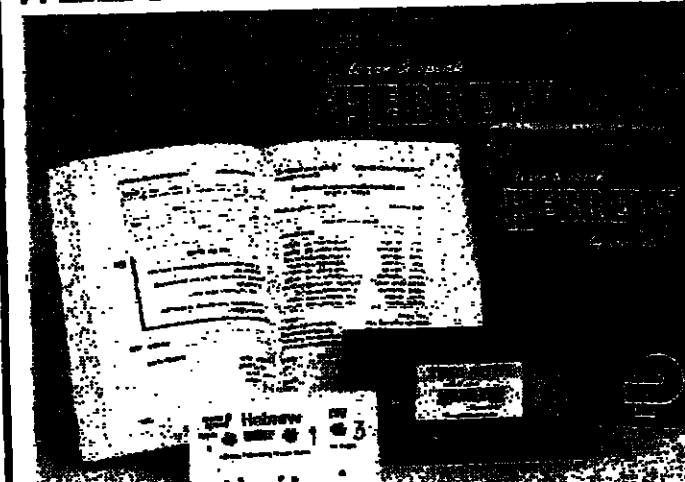
Meanwhile, Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadek said Friday that unless the government increases the budgets for Arab towns, they would vote against the government.

"We feel tremendous anger and frustration," Sadek said. "We've restrained ourselves and demonstrated responsibility for two years when we voted for budgets that we didn't want. The budget for the Arab sector is not in proper proportion to the needs of the Arabs."

He added that the Arab MKs would find it difficult to "swallow" the continuation of this situation.

"We as the prime minister and finance minister to show responsibility toward us, just as we have shown responsibility to the government," Sadek said. (Jim)

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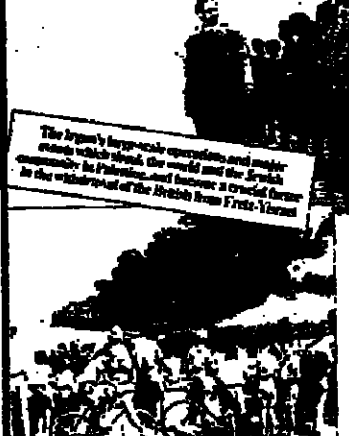
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Herzliya man killed after stabbing his host

A Herzliya man, 37, was shot to death yesterday afternoon during a fight in Menahemiya in the Jordan Valley. The shooting took place after the man, who was a guest at the home of a 27-year-old local resident, left the house with his host. A fight ensued and the Herzliya man drew a knife and stabbed his host in the neck. The Menahemiya man pulled out a licensed revolver and shot his guest to death.

The wounded local man was taken to Poriya Hospital in Tiberias. Police said he would be charged with manslaughter, and that there was no information on what caused the fight, although the two were known to have a long-standing dispute. (Jim)

Bar-Ilan protests continue

Several hundred Meretz supporters staged another demonstration on Friday against attempts to close Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan to traffic on Shabbat. Police separated the protesters from haredim who gathered in the area.

Oman Yekutieli, Meretz faction head in the city council, said there would be no status quo on religious affairs if the road was closed. The group began demonstrating due to rumors that Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert planned to close the street. (Jim)

Youths remanded for weapons possession

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on Friday extended by four days the remand of two brothers, aged 14 and 17, residents of Anata, who are suspected of illegal possession of weapons.

It is the second time the 17-year old's remand has been extended. Police said the two were found in possession of ammunition and stolen army equipment. Police said they knew the two also had a stolen pistol, but it had not yet been found. The two youths denied the allegations. (Jim)

Two caught in possession of drugs, bullets

Police confiscated over 32 kilograms of hashish, 182 Kalashnikov bullets, a communications device and a scanner Friday morning from a former IDF tracker, Walid Heb, 29, of Beit Zazir and Mahmoud Abdel Raizak, 25, of Nazareth.

The two were arrested after police waiting in ambush near the Lebanese border in Metulla noticed packages being tossed over the fence. Their remand was extended for 10 days in Acre Magistrate's Court Friday. (Jim)

Guest house to open for cancer victims

A cornerstone was laid on Friday in Petah Tikva for the country's first guest house for young cancer patients and their parents. The Oranit hostel is being built near the Children's Medical Center of Israel, at a cost of \$3.5 million. (Jim)